

## ***Doin' democracy curriculum***

### **Aligns with social studies standards**

Social Studies standards require that students not only acquire a body of knowledge about history, government and current events, but that they develop the critical thinking skills to study the past and its relationship to the present. The Ripple Effects program is a catalyst for students to learn more about the history of their own communities and to reflect on the role of that history in their experiences today. It prompts understanding of constitutional rights. Practice in critical thinking is also embedded in every tutorial in the Ripple Effects program. It is part of the "case study" analysis that starts a topic, and it's the spine of the journal writing exercises, that lead students systematically through critical thinking and writing path, over and over again.

### **Motivates civic participation**

However, with nearly half of the electorate abstaining from voting, there is little evidence that knowledge, or even critical thinking, is enough to motivate active engagement in the political process. Thus, Ripple Effects has created a "Doin' Democracy" curriculum that expressly aims to create citizen activists from each new generation. In it, students learn to critically consider the key issues of their times, including social conflict in many forms. However, in addition, to thinking, they learn to ACT, in accordance with their own beliefs' in a communal setting. They learn respect for constitutional rights, their own and others. The program promotes the values of democracy and encourages positive efforts to ensure greater justice for all.

Democracy - doing it	Honesty	Resisting stereotypes
Commanding respect	Fairness	Appreciating diversity
Standing up for a belief	Respect	Racial differences
Resisting pressure	Justice	Cultural differences
Exercising rights	Responsibility	Ethnic differences
Patriotism		Disabilities
Loyalty		Gender differences
Dissent		Personal preferences
Confronting injustice		Hate crimes Immigrant
Including others		Lesbian/gay
Resolving conflict		
Making a complaint		
Making Decisions		
Predicting Consequences		

Any topics can be deleted to conform to local mandates.