

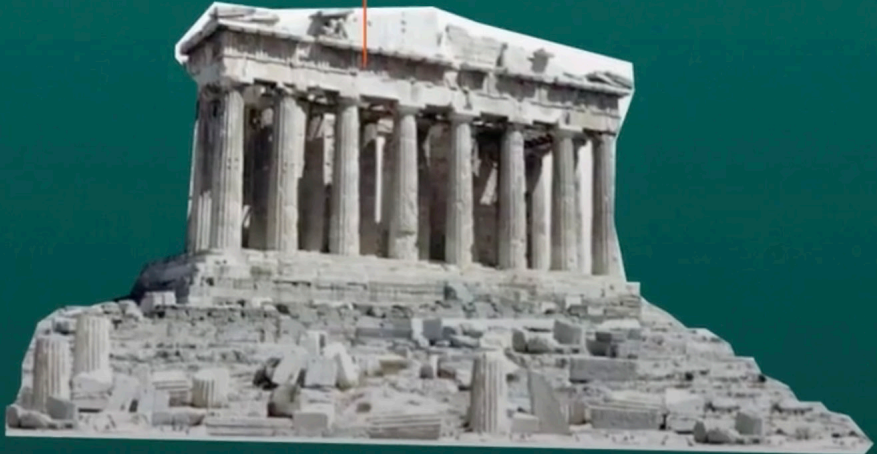
a film by sapienship  
**Is it time to drop democracy?**

# THE STUDENT VOICE

STUDENT VOICE, INC. 5 Raymond Street, N. W. Atlanta, Georgia 30314 July 15, 1964

## RIGHTS LAW COMPLIANCE VARIES

*Sixty Arrested in Registration Drive*



# Class Activity

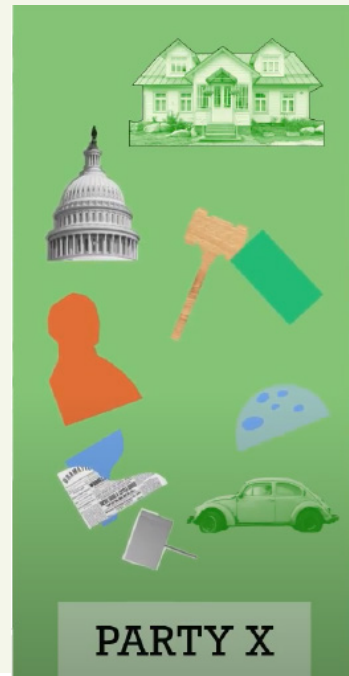
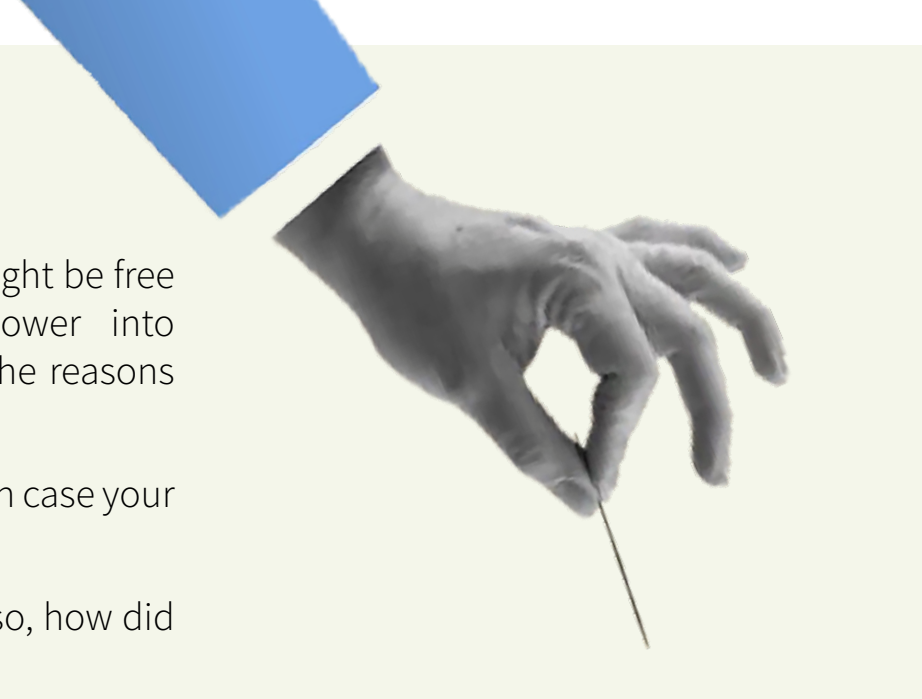
Divide the class into two groups: one group represents the majority who won recent elections, while the other represents the minority.

- a. Provide the class with a fictional scenario that involves a conflict between minority rights and majority rule. For example: the minority group wishes to start a school women's soccer team, but the majority doesn't want to allocate class resources for it.
- b. Each group should prepare arguments in favor of their position. Hold a classroom debate in which each group presents their arguments and responds to the other group's arguments.
- c. Ask students: In this scenario, can the majority group decide whatever they want simply because they are the majority? How do you decide who is right? Should minority rights be taken into consideration, even if they're in opposition to the majority's wishes? How can we ensure minority rights are preserved? Is there a difference between a motion from a minority group and one from a majority group? Did the debate change your perspective on the issue? What did you learn about the challenges of balancing minority rights with majority rule in a democracy?



# Questions for discussion

1. What do you think is the most important feature of democracy? It might be free elections, majority rule, citizens' rights, the separation of power into independent branches of government or other features. What are the reasons behind your answer?
2. Is there an independent court in your country that you can appeal to in case your basic rights are infringed?
3. Did you ever feel your government infringed your shield of rights? If so, how did you deal with it?
4. Is there a free press in your country? Do media outlets in your country ever criticize the government? And if so, are journalists who do this protected from prosecution?
5. What do you think are some ways to strengthen democracy and ensure that it remains liberal and just?
6. What can we do to improve democracy and ensure that all voices are heard, not just those in power or the loudest?
7. What role do you think social media and the internet play in shaping democracy today?



# Questions for discussion

8. What role does the public play in balancing the power of their government?
9. In your opinion, what are some of the biggest challenges that democracy faces in the 21st century?
10. Imagine this scenario: In a democratic country, the elected government decides to appoint an absolute leader and abolish judicial independence. Would you consider this a democratic decision?
11. Are there any ways in which you belong to the majority in your country? And are there any in which you belong to a minority?  
This can relate to ethnicity, gender, political views, cultural preferences, physical characteristics, disabilities, and more. Do you ever feel these different identities are in conflict with one another?
12. What are the various majority/minority groups in your country? Can you think of an example of people who are a majority on one matter and a minority on another? Can you think of conflicts that arise due to these dichotomies? How does your country solve these?

