

Human Rights and Values

This activity encourages pupils to explore their own values and values that they share with other people. Suitable for level 3 pupils and above.

Aims

- To consider on what values are important to us and which values we share.
- To create a set of shared values as a class or group.

What you need

Set of values cards per group – next two pages.

What to do

Explain that Human rights are based on a set of values. We are going to explore our own values and see if we can develop a set of values we share as a class. Initiate a discussion on what are values. Provide them with this definition from Amnesty International.

‘A value is a belief about what is right or wrong and what is most important in life which influences behaviour.’

Introduce or remind pupils of some of the values which underpin the UN declaration for human rights.

- **Fairness**
- **Respect**
- **Equality**
- **Dignity**

Give out sets of the values cards to small groups. In their groups, students choose the nine cards they think are the most important, then rank the values using a diamond 9 ranking pattern. They should try and reach a consensus on the top three. There is a blank card for them to add another value they think is important if they wish.

Facilitate feedback from the groups. Ask them to explain the reasons for the pattern they chose and write the top three values of each group on the board and try as a class to group them together to identify the values the group share.

Reflection

Remind the students of some of the core values of the UDHR, the first international human rights document. Discuss: Do their shared class values match those values? Does everyone in the class agree with the UDHR values? Are there any that they would like to add? Remind the class that the majority of countries adopted the UDHR and have agreed to subsequent human rights treaties. Most would say they agree with the core values within it. Even though we are all different there are shared fundamental values which most people agree with.

Values Cards – next two pages

Values Cards (1 of 2)



Materialism

Financial success
– making money.

Honesty

Telling the truth
at all times.

Fairness

Treating people fairly.

Compassion

Caring for others.

Equality

People should be
treated equally no
matter who they are.

Ambition

Trying to reach your
full potential.

Tolerance

Accepting and valuing
people's differences.

Add your own value

Values Cards (2 of 2)



Peace

Resolving conflict
without violence.

Respect for others

Respecting other
people's views and
ways of life.

Reliability

Keeping promises.

Protecting the environment

Being environmentally
friendly in everything
that you do.

Competitiveness

Being the best.

Generosity

Giving to others.

Freedom

for individuals to be
who they want to be,
freedom of speech.

Add your own value

This activity has been adapted from the Amnesty International resource [Right Here, Right Now](#)