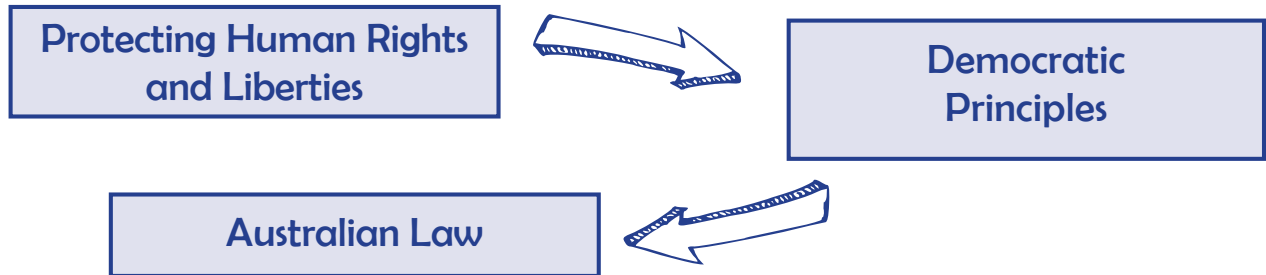




Civic Virtue

There are three essential elements that protect and support citizens in Australian society, These elements help maintain the rule of law in a democracy:



A democratic society is managed by a government that provides security and protection for all citizens through the parliamentary law making process. However, its success also requires every citizen to be actively informed and involved in community decisions.

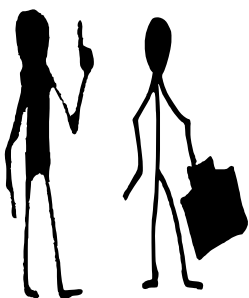
Do you have good civic virtue?

Effective citizens always:

- seek alternative sources of information to remain well informed about issues
- accept responsibility for their decisions and actions in the community
- protect the things that are important to them
- are respectful when listening to alternative views
- become involved in public groups to support their community
- use freedom of speech to share their views and opinion - in a respectful way, of course!

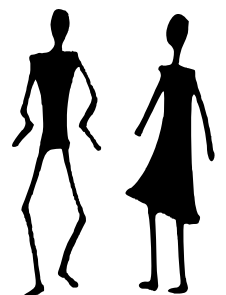


It is important for citizens to actively participate in their communities by showing the attitudes, values, and beliefs that are held within Australian society. Good citizens demonstrate how much they are willing to live under rules and laws, which have been created by the government to maintain a safe and respectful society.



A strong civic culture exists when citizens make sure they are well informed and understand their responsibilities.

This includes everyone showing mutual respect and complying with the law.





Put your thinking cap on!



The activity below has a collection of expectations that explain how effective citizens can demonstrate good civic virtue.

- Cut out all the pieces along the dotted lines and match each expectation to the correct element.
- On a separate A3 size piece of paper, glue each expectation into place under the correct heading.

If you can think of any more expectations, simply add them under the correct element!

Rights and Liberties

Democratic Principles

Australian Law



All citizens are treated equally and fairly according to the law.

Both men and women can go to school, become a politician, and join the defence and police forces.

Citizens must accept responsibility for their decisions and actions in the community.



Voting is compulsory for citizens over the age of 18 years for elections and occurs in federal, state and territory elections, and referenda.

All citizens have a responsibility to follow and obey the law.

Laws are regulated and enforced through a police force and judicial system.

No one is above the law, including those in positions of authority and ruling power.

All Australian citizens are expected to treat each other with respect and dignity, regardless of their beliefs, traditions, and background.

Australia's governance is a parliamentary democracy. Citizens elect representatives to parliament, which makes the laws.

Australian society is most successful when citizens engage in considerate and peaceful discussion.

Citizens can use freedom of speech to express their views and become involved in groups that share common interests.

