



Fifty years ago President Eisenhower proclaimed the first Law Day a “day of national dedication to the principle of government under law.” Law Day 2008 will explore the meaning of the rule of law, fostering public understanding of the concept through discussion of its role in a free society.

Definitions

Definitions of Core Democratic Values, Michigan Department of Education

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/10-02_Core_democratic_Values_48832_7.pdf

Principles of Democracy, United States Department of State

<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/principles/law.htm>

Lesson Plans

Citizenship and You, Oakland Community Schools (Grade 4)

http://www.oakland.k12.mi.us/scope/fourth_lessons/social/unit3/SS040301.DOC

Core Democratic Values, Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center (Grades 4–6)

<http://courts.michigan.gov/plc/cdv-packet.pdf>

Courts in the Community Lesson Plans, Colorado Judicial Branch (Grades 9–12)

<http://www.courts.state.co.us/exec/pubed/lessonplans/ciclessonplans.htm>

Education for Youth Project, California Judicial Branch (Grade 3)

<http://www.napa.courts.ca.gov/teacher/index.html>

Rule of Law, This I Believe (NPR)

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5442573>

Accompanying discussion guide could be adapted for the classroom.

See also Current Events

U.S. Constitution

Charters of Freedom, National Archives

<http://www.archives.gov/national-archives-experience/charters/charters.html>

Interactive Constitution, National Constitution Center

<http://www.constitutioncenter.org/constitution/>

Michigan Constitution

Constitution Search, Michigan Legislature

<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

Current Events

Rule of Law Initiative, American Bar Association

<http://www.abanet.org/rol/>

Rule of Law in Times of Major Disaster, American Bar Association

<http://www.abanet.org/litigation/ruleoflaw/home.html>

Constitutional Crisis in Pakistan, American Bar Association

<http://www.abavideonews.org/ABA495/index.php>

Classroom Discussion Questions

<http://www.abanet.org/publiced/abanews.pdf>

Video Messages from Lawyers about Rule of Law

<http://www.abavideonews.org/ABA495/discussion.php>

Statements from Selected State and Local Bar Associations, including Michigan

<http://www.abanet.org/barserv/resourcepages/pakistanresponse.shtml>



Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center

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Rule of Law

Both the government
and the people
must obey the law.

Good Laws:

- Have good reasons.
- Can be understood.
- Can be followed.
- Are fair to all.
- Can be enforced.



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The rule of law describes a system based on fair, publicized, easily understood and stable laws enforced with equity. This system of government encourages trust in institutions and the future.