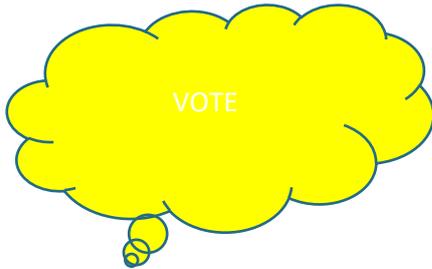


Democracy and Human Rights

CHAPTER 5 UNIT 1

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION



WATCH THE FOLLOWING YOUTUBE VIDEO:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-2cu3BALLVU>

Now answer the following questions:

1. What was the significance of the 27th of April 1994?
2. How were the majority of citizens prohibited from public participation during Apartheid?
3. Explain why voting is a crucial form of public participation in a democratic country.
4. Explain why it is important that public are permitted to protest peacefully in a democratic country.

THE PETITION PROCESS

A petition is a written document containing a formal request asking the government or an organisation to change something

Read the adapted article about online petitions:

A reader, Harriet Glickman, asks:

“Has anyone examined whether the four to five petitions people like me sign online every day have any effect at all on legislators, corporations, etc., to whom they are directed? Of course I know many of them are just another way to get donations but the issues and problems they address are real. I’d like to know if they actually make a difference. Any thoughts?”

Short answer: It turns out many people are studying digital activism — writing papers, holding conferences, generating digital business models and coining terms like “slactivism.” There’s even a definition in the Oxford English Dictionary:

slacktivism

(also **slactivism**) *informal*

[MASS NOUN] Actions performed via the internet in support of a political or social cause but regarded as requiring little time or involvement, e.g. signing an online petition or joining a campaign group on a social media website or application.

Online petitions are a tactic that have been used in many successful campaigns, from stopping the Keystone XL Pipeline to preserving net neutrality.

Educated Signers

Before signing an online petition it's important to see who is sponsoring it, and to decide whether or not the organization is legitimate. "It's good to be suspicious," says Mogus. "A lot of petitions don't ever get delivered to anyone." Here are a number of things to keep in mind:

- 1) Do you trust the organization sponsoring the petition?
- 2) Is there a target?
- 3) Do you think this change is possible? Has the organization broken the problem down into winnable steps?
- 4) You may be asked for money.
- 5) You may be asked to do more if you care about the issue.
- 6) You may be asked to spread the campaign on social media.
- 7) If the cause is really important to you, you may be asked to become a leader in your community.

Adapted from billmoyers.com

<https://billmoyers.com/story/sign-save-world-online-petitions-explained/>

Now answer the following questions:

1. In your view, would an online petition work better than a traditional paper petition? Provide a reason for your answer.
2. If you could start an online petition to change something in your community, what would it be and why?

GOVERNANCE, RULE OF LAW AND TRANSPARENCY

Watch the following YOUTUBE videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RFGV2N4ELNA>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ll2x_wlS-8o&t=4s

Now draw up a summary of the 8 principles of good governance. Use the guideline below to help you:

