



## THE “ABCs” OF THE RULE OF LAW

This activity may be done individually, in pairs, or small groups depending on size of class and time restrictions. Assign each student or group of students letters of the alphabet. Ask them to identify a word, name, or document that has a connection to the rule of law and then explain this connection. As students present their choices, the teacher records them on the board or on chart paper. When all letters have been completed, the teacher may ask students to look for common themes that reflect key principles of the rule of law or ideas that connect to what they are currently studying. Teachers may choose to use this activity as a springboard for discussing the rule of law or as a review after students have discussed definitions and characteristics of the concept. This activity also serves as an effective review for discussing the purpose, function, and structure of government.

Below are examples collected from using this activity with adults and students.

**A:** anarchy, agreement, amendment, Athens, abolition, article, absolute, ancient, America, Aristotle, Aquinas, Adams, arbitration, announced, A Man for All Seasons, Amistad, Antigone

**B:** Bill of Rights, behavior, balance, bureaucracy, boycott, bail, bound, bribe, bond, ban, blood lust, blood vengeance, barter

**C:** compact, contract, covenant, constitution, certainty, court, crown, consumer, crime, communism, corruption, civil, consistency, consent, citizen, Cicero, checks and balances, congress, civil rights, civics, controversy, conflict, consumer, compensation, coercion, Coercive Acts

**D:** Declaration of Independence, democracy, delegates, discrimination, discipline, discord, disunity, determination, demos, document, due process, defense, diligent, despotism, Diary of Anne Frank, diligence, Dicey (A.C.)

**E:** equality, executive, emancipation, economy, environment, education, egalitarian, engaged, equity, environment

**F:** freedom, fairness, feudalism, fascism, free, federalism, fidelity, First Amendment

**G:** government, governed, good, grant, goals, guide, grace, Grapes of Wrath

**H:** hope, health, home, happiness, Hammurabi's Code, habeas corpus, honor, help, hanging, health care, Hobbes, Hamilton, haven

**I:** independence, individual, injustice, ideal, instability, innocence, indispensable, immigration, illegal, integrity, institution, indivisible

**J:** justice, judiciary, judge, jury, judicial review, judicial independence, jurisprudence, Jefferson, Jay, The Jungle

**K:** king, killing, Koran, kind, knowledge, Ku Klux Klan

**L:** law, liberty, life, legal system, license, legislature, legislator, legislation, litigation, leader, lobby, liberal, Locke, Leviathan, The Laws (Aristotle)

**M:** mercy, money, monarch, murder, misery, magistrate, Magna Carta, municipality, moral, multicultural, Madison, Marx, majority rule, minority rights, media, Mill, Moore (Utopia)

**N:** natural law, nationalism, nobility, Nazis, nurture, naive, natural rights, negligent

**O:** order, openness, organization, oppression, optimistic, Oresteia, One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich

**P:** property, predictability, producers, police, policy, politics, protection, power, prejudice, principle, process, philosophy, peace, Plato

**Q:** quality, question, qualification, quota, queen, Quartering Act, quality of life, Qur'an

**R:** rights, reliability, reason, regulations, representative, Rome, royalty, rebellion, religion, racism, republic, rules and responsibilities, restitution, ratification, reject, Rousseau, Rosa Parks

**S:** stability, safety, society, sovereignty, school, senate, safe, security, sensible, socialism, Stamp Act, Sugar Act, Sharia Law

**T:** trial, torture, terrorism, transportation, taxes, tension, treatment, truth, tyranny, tribunal, tolerance, To Kill a Mockingbird

**U:** universal, United States, United Nations, unfair, unjust, usurp, united, utopia, union, unity, under law, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

**V:** virtue, victim, value, voting, vigilant, valor, veto, vindicate, voice, vice

**W:** well-being, worth, war, wages, wealth, Watergate, wisdom, warrant,  
wrong, welfare state, world

**X:** xenophobia, Xerxes, x-ray

**Y:** you, yoke, youth, yield, yellow journalism, yearning

**Z:** zoning, zealot, zenith, zoo, Zeus, zero tolerance