

ACTIVITY BANK

GUIDED DISCUSSION

PURPOSE

To understand the concept of rule of law and see the similarities and differences between laws in the United States and country/ies of origin and/or protection, as well as consequences of breaking the law.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Lead participants in a discussion about how they would proceed in a given social situation. For example, the CO provider could start by asking participants: How are they participating in the class today? Are they raising their hands? Are they listening to the other participants? Then ask: How did you know to participate in those ways? Why didn't you yell at others in the classroom when you disagreed? Or provide other examples that would show disorder or lack of respect for rules.
2. Use the given social situation to explain how there is an understanding between you and the participants regarding class structure and rules. Draw attention to how the rules were established. Ask them what happens when someone does not respect the rules, or if they do not follow the rules.
3. Use this example to draw an analogy to the concept of rule of law and the United States, highlighting the following key points:
 - Rule of law relies on all parties involved taking responsibility for their actions (for example, citizens are responsible for obeying the law, while law enforcement is responsible for obeying and enforcing the law).
 - Rule of law assumes that there are just laws. Laws should be clear, and everyone should know how laws are enforced, and the consequences for not upholding the law.
 - Rule of law also includes a system by which the people impacted by the laws can dispute them or advocate for changes in the law affecting them.
4. Take the conversation back to a more global level, by asking: What are the laws in your country of origin? Are there any laws that exist in your country, but are not enforced by the government?
5. Distribute U.S. law pictures to participants. You may use existing photos from the Welcome Guide or Making Your Way curriculum, or there are suggested [images in the Appendix](#). Participants discuss pictures and sort into three groups: images that show activities that are legal, illegal, or both depending on circumstances, in the United States. Participants can explain their responses.
6. After sorting pictures, the CO provider discusses any errors with the groupings. This is also an opportunity to make distinctions between laws in the United States and country/ies of origin and/or protection.
7. Finally, take a moment to brainstorm potential consequences for breaking the law in the United States. Be sure to explain that there are many laws in the United States and it's their responsibility to know the laws, that laws can change, and that the laws vary from one state to another.

MODIFICATIONS & TIPS

- CO providers may modify or add questions based on the group of participants and their experiences, as well as the comfort of the provider with the subject. For example, you could make connections earlier in the discussion about what might happen if participants don't follow rules in the U.S.
- An activity can be done as a collective discussion, and the sorting of images (step 5) can be done in groups or together with all participants.

APPENDIX

RULE OF LAW IMAGES

These are suggested images. CO providers may also use photos they have already identified for U.S. laws, as well as those that are featured in the Welcome Guide or the Making Your Way Curriculum.



Smoking indoors



Smoking marijuana



Consuming alcohol



Voting



Physical abuse of partner



Using the cell phone while driving



Jaywalking