

Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen Project

For each of the following documents, write down 2-3 points that you believe are the most important. If you can, include one item that you disagree with or are uncertain about.

Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen, 1789

Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, 1982

Declaration of Independence, 1776

Instructions:

You will use a blank piece of printer paper to create your own Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, as they did during the French Revolution. You can get ideas for your declaration from the documents you just read, as well as the Bible and other valuable sources you may find.



Your declaration must cover these topics:

- equality
- taxation
- legal rights
- religion
- voting rights

Your declaration should have between 8-10 points, it must be neat and organized, and it should have some decoration that relates to the topic covered. To the left is an example.

You can choose to complete this project on your own, or with the help of a partner – it’s up to you.

| | 9-10 | 7-8 | 5-6 | -5 |
|-----------------------|---|---|--|---|
| Neatness/Organization | The project is neat, organized, and creative. There is a considerable amount of information included in the project, but it doesn't appear cluttered. | The project is neat, organized, and creative. | The project is neat, organized, or creative. | The project fails to be neat, organized, or creative. |
| Required Elements | All of the required elements are included, and there is some evidence of extra work | All of the required elements are included | Most of the required elements are included | Many of the required elements are missing |
| Insight | Each section of the declaration is detailed and insightful. There is obvious purpose behind each section | Each section is detailed and thought through | Most of the project is detailed | There is a lack of detail and insight |

Canada, 1982

1. The *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* guarantees the rights and freedoms set out in it subject only to such reasonable limits prescribed by law as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society.

FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

2. Everyone has the following fundamental freedoms:

- (a) freedom of conscience and religion;
- (b) freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication;
- (c) freedom of peaceful assembly; and
- (d) freedom of association.

DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

3. Every citizen of Canada has the right to vote in an election of members of the House of Commons or of a legislative assembly and to be qualified for membership therein.

4. (1) No House of Commons and no legislative assembly shall continue for longer than five years from the date fixed for the return of the writs at a general election of its members. [\(81\)](#)

(2) In time of real or apprehended war, invasion or insurrection, a House of Commons may be continued by Parliament and a legislative assembly may be continued by the legislature beyond five years if such continuation is not opposed by the votes of more than one-third of the members of the House of Commons or the legislative assembly, as the case may be. [\(82\)](#)

5. There shall be a sitting of Parliament and of each legislature at least once every twelve months. [\(83\)](#)

MOBILITY RIGHTS

6. (1) Every citizen of Canada has the right to enter, remain in and leave Canada.

(2) Every citizen of Canada and every person who has the status of a permanent resident of Canada has the right

- (a) to move to and take up residence in any province; and
- (b) to pursue the gaining of a livelihood in any province.

LEGAL RIGHTS

7. Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of the person and the right not to be deprived thereof except in accordance with the principles of fundamental justice.

8. Everyone has the right to be secure against unreasonable search or seizure.
9. Everyone has the right not to be arbitrarily detained or imprisoned.
10. Everyone has the right on arrest or detention
 - (a) to be informed promptly of the reasons therefor;
 - (b) to retain and instruct counsel without delay and to be informed of that right; and
11. Any person charged with an offence has the right
 - (a) to be informed without unreasonable delay of the specific offence;
 - (b) to be tried within a reasonable time;
 - (c) not to be compelled to be a witness in proceedings against that person in respect of the offence;
 - (d) to be presumed innocent until proven guilty according to law in a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal;
 - (e) not to be denied reasonable bail without just cause;
12. Everyone has the right not to be subjected to any cruel and unusual treatment or punishment.
13. A witness who testifies in any proceedings has the right not to have any incriminating evidence so given used to incriminate that witness in any other proceedings, except in a prosecution for perjury or for the giving of contradictory evidence.

EQUALITY RIGHTS

15. (1) Every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination and, in particular, without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES OF CANADA

16. (1) English and French are the official languages of Canada and have equality of status and equal rights and privileges as to their use in all institutions of the Parliament and government of Canada.

Declaration of Independence

United States, 1776

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. —That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, —That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. —Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen

France, 1789

1. Men are born free and remain free and equal in rights.
2. The aim of every political association is the preservation of the natural and imprescriptible rights of man. These rights are liberty, property, security, and resistance to oppression.
3. The sources of all sovereignty resides essentially in the nation; no body, no individual can exercise authority that does not proceed from it in plain terms.
4. Liberty consists in the power to do anything that does not injure others.
5. The law has only the rights to forbid such actions as are injurious to society.
6. Law is the expression of the general will. All citizens have the right to take part personally, or by their representatives, and its formation.
7. No man can be accused, arrested, or detained, except in the cases determined by the law and according to the forms it has prescribed.
8. The law ought only to establish penalties that are strict and obviously necessary, and no one can be punished except in virtue of a law established and promulgated prior to the offense and legally applied.
9. Every man being presumed innocent until he has been pronounced guilty.
10. No one should be disturbed on account of his opinions, even religious, provided their manifestation does not upset the public order established by law.
11. The free communication of ideas and opinions is one of the most precious of the rights of man; every citizen can then freely speak, write, and print, subject to responsibility for the abuse of this freedom in the cases is determined by law.