1 Why does democracy need participation?

Make It Matter

As you create your project, think about what you can do to participate effectively with your family, friends, school or community.

■ Why Participate?

What do you think about when you hear the word "democracy?" You may think about democracy as a form of government, but it is much more than government. It involves participation. Why do you think it is important to participate in a democracy?

Share your ideas about democracy and participation with your classmates or other students in your school. Choose from the projects described below, or develop your own idea for a project. Collect sources, personal examples and visuals that show why and how you think it is important to participate.

Your project should:

• Include ideas about the importance of democracy and what it can look like "in action"

• Use a variety of sources and examples, such as print materials, media sources, photographs, interview quotations, personal examples

• Include a paragraph that represents your opinion on why it is important to participate.

With your class, create a display around the question, "Why Participate?"

Choose a Format:

A **personal poster** includes visuals and text. It should communicate a strong message.

A **collage** is created with a collection of items from different sources. A collage can include excerpts from media sources, photographs, illustrations, drawings, quotations and literature excerpts. It can also include items that you create yourself. Three-dimensional objects can be used in a collage to create a "collage in relief."

A **storyboard** is a series of drawings, sketches and text that is used to present a sequence of ideas or events. A storyboard is usually created using a series of boxes like a comic strip.

A **photo essay** is a collection of photographs that are presented in order to tell a story or create an emotional reaction. A photo essay can provide a written explanation, literature excerpt or quotation or descriptive words and phrases with each photograph. To create your photo essay, you can take digital photographs and create your essay in electronic form or cut and paste photographs you find in different sources.