



National Council for the
Social Studies

Appendix B

Democratic Beliefs and Values

A. *Rights of the Individual*

- Right to life
- Right to liberty
- Right to dignity
- Right to security
- Right to equality of opportunity
- Right to justice
- Right to privacy
- Right to private ownership of property

B. *Freedoms of the Individual*

- Freedom to participate in the political process
- Freedom of worship
- Freedom of thought
- Freedom of conscience
- Freedom of assembly
- Freedom of inquiry
- Freedom of expression

C. *Responsibilities of the Individual*

- To respect human life
- To respect the rights of others
- To be tolerant
- To be honest
- To be compassionate
- To demonstrate self-control
- To participate in the democratic process
- To work for the common good
- To respect the property of others

D. *Beliefs Concerning Societal Conditions and Governmental Responsibilities*

- Societies need laws that are accepted by the majority of the people.
- Dissenting minorities are protected.
- Government is elected by the people.
- Government respects and protects individual rights.
- Government respects and protects individual freedoms.
- Government guarantees civil liberties.
- Government works for the common good.

Source: John Jarolimek, Chair, NCSS Task Force on Scope and Sequence. "Social Studies for Citizens of a Strong and Free Nation," in *Social Curriculum Planning Resources* (Washington, D.C.: National Council for the Social Studies, 1990), 31-32.