**Grading Liberal Democracies Assignment**

*Social Studies 30 – To what extent are the principles of liberalism viable in a contemporary context?*

**Step One –** on your corner of the placemat, list 2-3 ways to answer the following statement:

“I would know that I was living in a liberal democracy if I observed…”

**Step Two –** share your answers with your group, and create a common list of 3-4 criteria in the center of the placemat

**Step Three** – share your answers with the class

**Step Four –** Create a class list of 6 - 10 principles or values that characterize a liberal democracy. This will become the criteria for the “report card”.

**Step Five –** go to Freedomhouse.org (or another website recommended by your teacher) and research 3 countries in regards to their political and civil freedoms. Create a report card for each of those countries.

**Step Six** – create an engaging and informative poster (regular size paper 8 ½ x 11) that presents your findings.

**Sample Report Card**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Canada** | Report card mark (A B C D F) | Justification for mark |
| - government is elected | A- | - government is elected, but there are also government elements (Senate, Governor General) who are appointed |
| - competitive political parties | A+ | - high level of parties in multi-party democracy |
| - level of corruption | A+ | - despite some scandals, Canada ranked 9/180 in survey of transparency and corruptness |
| - free press | A- | - concerns of “political correctness” leading to court cases against journalists writing controversial articles |
| - religious freedom | A+ | - religious freedom is widespread and diverse |
| - fair trials | A+ | - law is based on English/French civil law and is constitutionally bound to follow the rules regarding habeus corpus |

**\*Freedom House score: 1 = free (lowest score possible – like golf, low is good)**

Choose one country from each of the following columns.

Each country should be profiled twice so let your teacher know which country you want to profile

(in order to provide two sources of exploration and evaluation).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Australia  Austria  Denmark  Finland  France  Germany  Iceland  Ireland  Netherlands  New Zealand  Norway  South Africa  Spain  Sweden  Switzerland  United Kingdom  United States | Albania  Argentina  Brazil  Colombia  Croatia  El Salvador  Guatemala  Hungary  Indonesia  Mexico  Peru  Philippines  Poland  Romania  Russia  Singapore  Sri Lanka | Afghanistan  Bangladesh  Ethiopia  Fiji  Iraq  Kenya  Lebanon  Myanmar  Nicaragua  Nigeria  Pakistan  Rwanda  Sierra Leone  Thailand  Turkey  Ukraine  Venezuela |