

## **The Evolution of Human Rights in Modern Europe – Document Analysis**

### AP European History

#### Time:

2-3 days to read each document and background and prepare the charts or essay. One day could be spent on the role-playing activity.

#### Description:

Students will identify significant similarities and differences in four historical documents and show the evolution to the present day. They will articulate these points orally and in written form.

#### Objective:

Students will read and analyze three major documents in European history related to the articulation of human rights. As a result of this process they will identify significant similarities and new concepts and discuss the application to contemporary issues.

#### Documents:

Magna Carta c. 1215

<http://www.constitution.org/eng/magnacar.htm>

The English Bill of Rights -1689

[http://www.constitution.org/eng/eng\\_bor.htm](http://www.constitution.org/eng/eng_bor.htm)

Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen -1789

<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/rightsof.htm>

Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union -2000

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/charter/pdf/text\\_en.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/charter/pdf/text_en.pdf)

#### Directions

The class should be divided into four sections and each group will read one document, noting the key principles. The members of each group will then be dispersed into new groups in which all four documents are reviewed. Students will then determine what features are most significant either due to their consistency or uniqueness.

#### Assessment:

Students will construct a chart showing each document and the core principles identifying similarities and key differences. The more advanced students may write an essay in which they articulate these same points and reveal the historical context for the evolution.

Other students may choose to role play the authors of the documents and respond to a modern day panel asking their views on the contemporary issues.

#### A.P. European History:

The Collapse of the Medieval World

The Age of Enlightenment

Revolutionary France

The Collapse of Communism and the “New World Order”

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