

Democratic Village Elections in China:
Comparing Governments of China and the United States
High School – Government/Civics
Middle School –

Procedure

1. Instructor will write examples of communist and democratic states on the board (e.g. China, Korea, Vietnam – and – U.S., Canada, Germany, Brazil). Students will identify and describe features of communist states and democratic states based on previous knowledge.
2. After dialogue and discussion, instructor will point out that Chinese villages have been holding democratic elections since 1988. Students will view “One Village Votes (2006)” slideshow from the Carter Center website:
<http://cartercenter.org/news/multimedia/PeacePrograms/OneVillageVotes.html>
(Select “Peace Topics” from the left console and scroll down to “One Village Votes”)
3. Students will read two articles to better understand the relationship between China’s authoritarian national government and democratic governance in villages.

The New York Times, “China Villagers Vote, but Its Party Rules”

Eric Eckholm, 4 November 2001

<http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9800EFDC1739F937A35752C1A9679C8B63>

The Carter Center, Statement by Yawei Liu on China Village Elections Project

8 July 2002

<http://cartercenter.org/documents/1039.pdf>

4. After reading the articles, students will research and write an essay comparing and contrasting governments of the U.S. and China, providing specific examples of similarities and differences.
 - How is the Chinese system of government different from the American system?
 - To what extent is there a diversity of people and ideas in each government?
 - Who holds power in each

