

WHO MAKES THE RULES HANDOUT NO.1

Authority - the person or group of people who are given the right to control or direct the actions of others.

Branches of government - legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government

Legislative - the branch of government that makes the laws. In the federal government this would be Congress (House of Representatives and Senate). In Maryland's state government this would be the General Assembly and Senate.

Executive - the branch of government that enforces the laws made by the legislative branch. In the national government this would be the President, Vice President, and Cabinet. In Maryland's state government this would be the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Cabinet.

Judicial - the branch of government that interprets the laws and settles disputes through a system of courts, such as the U.S. Supreme Court and the Maryland State Supreme Court.

Checks and Balances - the sharing and balancing of power among the three branches of government so no one branch can dominate the others.

Citizen - a member of a town, city, state, or country who owes loyalty to the government and is entitled to its protection.

Compromise - all sides in a conflict giving up some of what they want in order to make an agreement.

Democracy - a form of government in which power is held by all citizens, either directly or through elected representatives.

Government - the organization through which political authority is exercised in a society. It protects the group members and settles disagreements among them. The main jobs of the government are to make and enforce laws.

Justice - the act of being fair and honest; of doing what is right.

Maintain order - the government's right to make and enforce all the laws for the good of the common welfare; these include laws provided in the U.S. and Maryland Constitutions and passed by both the U.S. and Maryland legislatures.

Privacy - being alone or not bothered by other people.

Respect - to be thoughtful of and caring of another person

Rights and responsibilities - **Rights** are freedoms granted to American citizens that allow them to make their own choices. For example, Americans have the right to an education, to express ideas, and to vote for leaders. **Responsibilities** are duties that citizens have.

Rule - something you must or must not do.

Rule of Law - the belief that the laws apply to all citizens. Even the President must follow the laws of the country.

Separation of powers - the division of powers among the different branches of government; in the United States, among the legislative, executive, and judicial branches

Tolerance - being willing to let others have their own beliefs and ways of behaving, even though these are not like one's own.