

Choosing to Participate

Facing History and Ourselves

“Democracy is a work in progress. It is shaped by the choices ordinary people make about themselves and others. Although those choices may not seem important at the time, little by little, they define an individual, create a community, and ultimately forge a nation.”

-- from *Choosing to Participate, A Study Guide by Facing History and Ourselves*

Visit <www.choosingtoparticipate.org>. Click on “Explore the Exhibit,” and read/hear/watch the “four compelling true stories that demonstrate the complexities that any moment could present and encourage us to think about how we might act and the consequences of our choices.”

Consider a choice that you have made or would like to make. How did it (or would it) affect you, your community, and your nation? Use the grid below to examine the ripple effect of your choice. After you fill in the grid, discuss it with your classmates. What do you think? Do individual choices make a difference?

A choice I made: _____

How does this choice define me as an individual?

How does this choice affect my community?

How does this choice affect my country?