



What changes are these community members trying to bring about? Whom are their actions intended to affect? Who might support them? Who might be against them? Which are the biggest changes? Why do you think so? Which will be the hardest changes to bring about? Why? Which changes will affect the most people? Turn the page to explore further...

# Three Types of Civic Participation

Type of Community Member	Type of Participation	List the ways you participate as a community member:
A personally responsible community member	works, pays taxes, obeys laws, helps those in need during snowstorms and floods	
A participatory community member	joins parent/teacher council at child's school, participates in church and neighborhood committees, votes	
A justice-oriented community member	organizes with others in the workplace or community to make change collectively, explores the root causes of problems, questions who benefits from government decisions	

## Discussion Questions

1. What categories do your activities fall into? What about other students? Are you surprised?
2. When you think about the civics lessons in school or in your adult education program, what kind of citizenship have they mostly prepared you for?
3. What type of community members do you think would make the *strongest* democracy?
4. What could your program do to develop your skills for participation in the strongest democracy?
5. Go back and look at the picture on the previous page. How would you categorize the actions of the people in the drawing?

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"What Kind of Citizen? The Politics of Educating for Democracy," Joel Westheimer and Joseph Kahne, *American Educational Research Journal*, Summer 2004. A PDF version of the article is available at <[www.mills.edu/academics/faculty/educ/jkahne/what\\_kind\\_of\\_citizen.pdf](http://www.mills.edu/academics/faculty/educ/jkahne/what_kind_of_citizen.pdf)>.