

◇ Chapter 2  
Families Make a Difference

Enrichment Activities

## IDENTIFYING VALUES

Every day you are asked to make decisions. Your family values play an important role in the decisions you make now and in the future.

**Directions:** Read the situations below, and determine which values influenced the decisions that were made. In the space provided, write a sentence summarizing the values that led to each decision.

1. Deanna encouraged her son RJ to try out for the soccer team because she knew it was important to him. If he makes the team, it will make extra work for Deanna. She will have to drive him to and from practice several times a week. She will also need to set aside time to attend matches each weekend during soccer season.

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2. Meagan is a nurse. She loves her work and is good at what she does. Meagan returned to work six weeks after the birth of each of her two children. Although she and her husband, Shaun, could have lived on his salary, Meagan wanted to go back to work. It brought her great satisfaction, which she believed helped her be a better mother.

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3. When Rufus was offered a promotion, it meant moving to another state. He discussed it with his wife, Lillie, and their two teenagers. Rufus explained that he would earn more money, which would benefit the entire family. Besides, with college coming up, they could use the extra income. Neither of the children wanted to move. Lillie thought that the move was necessary financially. She also felt that Rufus might not get another chance at a promotion. They decided to move.

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4. Juanita is a bright student. Her parents think that she should attend a private college far away, where they believe she will get the best education. Juanita, however, wants to attend a small college closer to home. She doesn't want to disappoint her parents, but she also doesn't want the stress of attending a large college far away. Juanita decides to respectfully tell her parents that she does not want to go away to college. In the end, they respect her decision and agree to support her financially, regardless of where she chooses to go to college.

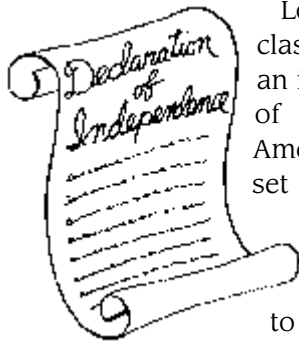
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## THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS



Look at the faces of your classmates. Each one reflects an individual with a unique set of values as well as an American sharing a common set of values on which this country was founded. Many of these values draw people from other countries to the United States today.

What are these values? Where do they come from?

In 1776, the Declaration of Independence set forth certain rights: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Fifteen years later, the Bill of Rights guaranteed ten others, including freedom of religion, of speech, and of the press. It also ensured the right not to be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due cause.

The first American settlers were looking for a place to practice their religion without persecution. This belief in *individualism* remains in America today. For teens it means you can wear your hair as you like and listen to your own kind of music. You can choose whether to go to college or to get a job.

Individualism requires tolerance for the differences of others. When one group fights another group because they do not agree with their religious or cultural beliefs, or because they have a different skin color, they are showing intolerance for others' right to be individuals. They show disrespect for one of the main reasons this country was founded.

The final words of the Pledge of Allegiance — "with *liberty* and *justice* for all" — are reminders that freedom and fairness also are American values. Liberty means living free from too much control by government and others. Justice means that you are presumed innocent until proven guilty. It requires that you receive a fair, speedy trial with adequate legal representation.

When the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights were written, it was assumed that Americans would value their *civic duty* — their right and obligation to participate in a self-ruling government that includes such activities as voting and running for political office. People in many other countries are deprived of this right. They cannot understand why less than one-half of all eligible voters bothered to cast a ballot in the last United States presidential election. Each time Americans recite, "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America," they are renewing their promise to be loyal participants in the workings of the government.

Individualism and tolerance, liberty, justice, and civic duty — these values connect the communities of America. They should serve as powerful influences in decisions about careers, citizenship, and how you treat others. They must be kept alive if the values of the American founders are to be passed on to future generations.

### Focus In

Take a survey of students and adults in your school and community.

1. How many are registered to vote?
2. How many voted in the last presidential election?
3. If they didn't vote, what would it take for them to vote in the next election?
4. What is the process for registering to vote?

Volunteer to help register young adult voters in your school or community. Start the next century out right. Remember to vote! Be like 92-year-old Roy, who proudly says, "I never missed voting in an election in my entire life."