

Knowledge for Freedom Poster

Andy Huang Zhang, Summer 2025

Democracy Reflection

Before this program, I thought that us regular citizens didn't have much participation in democracy. The privileged were the only ones who have a say in society. However, throughout this program I learned that there has been many significant figures who fought the system in order to obtain rights and be respected even if their life's were at risk.

"Never again can we afford to live with the narrow, provincial "outside agitator" idea. Anyone who lives inside the United States can never be considered an outsider anywhere in this country." -Martin L. King

"One has a moral responsibility to disobey unjust laws. I would agree with Saint Augustine that "An unjust law is no law at all."" -Martin L. King



Pillar Reflection

"And this is done by barely agreeing to unite into one political society, which is all the compact that is, or needs be, between the individuals, that enter into, or make up a commonwealth." (John Locke, 221) Society would be a better place if everyone, or most of the people contributed to voting in democracy (Participation). The pillar of participation relates to Locke's quote because he stated, that in order for a society to fully function at its best, society has to unite through a common interest which can evolve into solving world problems and treating each other fairly (Justice).

Civic Engagement

You do not have to start a revolution or go against the government (system) to engage in civic participation. The Black Panthers in 1966 defended the black population in society by fighting against police brutality and systemic racism in black communities. (Lecture, Dr. DeLeon) The Black Panthers engaged in virtuous acts of kindness for their community like the health, education, and food programs; exemplifying a way of support at a local level through the pursuit of collective actions.

Program Reflection

This program opened my eyes into learning and understanding how the system (government) and social contract works in society. How we as citizens that conform to a society are able to make decisions and defend ourselves if our livelihood is threatened.

This summer has helped me get a preview of what the college experience will entail, prepare for housing (dorm rooms), and college meals. Everything I learned in this program was extremely helpful in aiding my understanding of the realities of college. I obtained new information regarding the college admissions process and how to write an effective college level essay.

