

Taking the Human Rights Temperature of Your School

Ask students to evaluate their school's human rights climate, i.e. take its "temperature," by completing the survey below. Record and discuss their findings:

- In which areas does your school seem to be promoting human rights principles?
- In which areas do there seem to be human rights problems?
- How do you explain the existence of such problematic conditions? Are they related to discrimination? To participation in decision-making? Who benefits and who loses/suffers from these human rights violations?
- Have you or any other members of the community contributed to the existing climate, either to improve or to worsen it?
- What needs to be done to improve the human rights climate in your school?

Develop an action plan as a class, identifying goals, strategies and responsibilities.

Directions: Read each statement and evaluate how accurately it describes your school community. Keep in mind all members of your school: students, teachers, administrators, staff. Add up your score to determine the overall assessment for your school.

Rating scale:

1	2	3	4	DN
Never (No/False)	Sometimes	Often	Always (Yes/True)	Don't Know

- Members of the school community are treated equally regardless of their race, sex, family background, disability, religion or lifestyle. *(UDHR articles 2, 16; CRC articles 2, 23)*

- My school is a place where I am safe and secure. *(UDHR articles 3, 5; CRC articles 6, 37)*

- All students receive equal information and encouragement about academic and career opportunities. *(UDHR articles 2, 26; CRC articles 2, 29)*

- My school provides equal access, resources, activities and accommodation for everyone. *(UDHR articles 2, 7; CRC articles 2)*

- Members of my school community will oppose discriminatory actions, materials or words in the school. *(UDHR articles 2, 3, 7, 28, 29; CRC articles 2, 3, 6, 30)*

- When someone violates the rights of another person, the violator is helped to learn how to change her/his behavior. *(UDHR articles 26; CRC articles 28, 29)*

- Members of my school community care about my full human as well as academic development and try to help me when I am in need. *(UDHR articles 3, 22, 26, 29; CRC articles 3, 6, 27, 28, 29, 31)*

- When conflicts arise, we try to resolve them in non-violent and collaborative ways. *(UDHR articles 3, 28; CRC articles 3, 13, 19, 29, 37)*

- The school has policies and procedures regarding discrimination and uses them when incidents occur. *(UDHR articles 3, 7; CRC articles 3, 29)*

- In matters related to discipline, everyone is assured of fair, impartial treatment in the determination of guilt and assignment of punishment. *(UDHR articles 6, 7, 8, 9, 10; CRC articles 28, 40)*

TURN OVER TO COMPLETE

11. Everyone in our school is free from degrading treatment or punishment.
(UDHR articles 5; CRC articles 13, 16, 19, 28)
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12. Someone accused of wrong-doing is presumed innocent until proved guilty.
(UDHR articles 11; CRC articles 16, 28, 40)
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13. My personal space and possessions are respected.
(UDHR articles 12, 17; CRC articles 16)
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14. My school community welcomes students, teachers, administrators and staff from diverse backgrounds and cultures, including people not born in this country.
(UDHR articles 1, 6, 13, 14, 15; CRC articles 2, 29, 30, 31)
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15. I have the liberty to express my beliefs and ideas without fear of discrimination.
(UDHR articles 19; CRC articles 13, 14)
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16. Members of my school can produce and disseminate publications without fear of censorship or punishment.
(UDHR articles 19; CRC articles 13)
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17. Diverse perspectives (e.g. gender, race/ethnicity, ideological) are represented in courses, textbooks, assemblies, libraries and classroom instruction.
(UDHR articles 2, 19, 17; CRC articles 17, 29, 30)
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18. I have the opportunity to participate in cultural activities at the school and my cultural identity, language and values are respected.
(UDHR articles 19, 27, 28; CRC articles 29, 30, 31)
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19. Members of my school have the opportunity to participate in democratic decision-making to develop school policies and rules.
(UDHR articles 20, 21, 23; CRC articles 13, 15)
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20. Members of my school have the right to form associations with in the school to advocate for their rights or the rights of others
(UDHR articles 19, 20, 23; CRC article 15)
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21. Members of my school encourage each other to learn about societal and global problems related to justice, ecology, poverty and peace.
(UDHR preamble, articles 26, 29; CRC articles 29)
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22. Members of my school encourage each other to organize and take action to address problems related to justice, ecology, poverty and peace.
(UDHR preamble, articles 20, 29; CRC article 29)
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23. Members of my school community are able to take adequate rest/recess time during the school day and work reasonable hours under fair work conditions.
(UDHR articles 23, 24; CRC articles 31, 32)
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24. Employees in my school are paid enough to have a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of themselves and their families.
(UDHR articles 22, 25; CRC article 27)
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25. I take responsibility in my school to ensure that people do not discriminate against others.
(UDHR articles 1, 29; CRC article 29)
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Total

Best possible temperature = 100 human rights degrees

Name (optional): _____