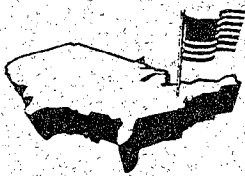


# Core Democratic Values

The Michigan Framework for Social Studies Education Content Standards refer to *Core Democratic Values* which have been expressed in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and other foundational documents of the United States. As responsible citizens, we should make a reasoned commitment to these democratic values which we share in order to fulfill our civic responsibilities and honor the dignity of all people.

## The Declaration of Independence

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends it is the Right of The People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.



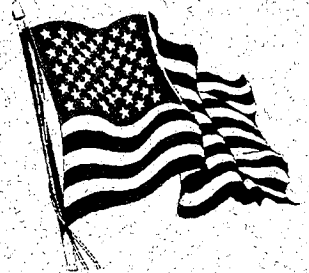
## The Constitution of the United States

### Preamble

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquillity, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

*The following concepts can be found in the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution:*

- assistance of counsel in your defense
- domestic tranquillity
- double jeopardy
- equal protection
- equality
- freedom
- free expression
- freedom of assembly
- freedom of religion
- freedom of speech
- freedom to petition government
- independence
- justice
- liberty
- no excessive bail, fines
- no cruel or unusual punishment
- no private property taken without just compensation
- no slavery
- privacy
- probable cause
- promote the general welfare
- protection from unreasonable search and seizure
- public good
- pursuit of happiness
- representative government
- rights of individuals
- rights of minorities to be free from the tyranny of the majority
- right to a speedy public jury trial and due process
- right to confront witnesses against you
- right to private property
- right to vote
- rule of law
- safety and security
- states have all power not expressly given to the federal government



# T-Chart for Identifying Responses to Public Issues

Agreement – For – Should

1. Clearly stated position:
2. Support of position with a CDV
3. Support of position with data from data section
4. Support of position with information you would learn in a social studies class
5. Acknowledge opposing view point and provide a refutation

Disagreement – Against – Should Not

1. Clearly stated position:
2. Support of position with a CDV
3. Support of position with data from data section
4. Support of position with information you would learn in a social studies class
5. Acknowledge opposing view point and provide a refutation