

**CHAPTER 36 ACTIVITY**  
**Analyzing**

**Directions:** Read the excerpt from one of former president Jimmy Carter's speeches. Then answer the questions that follow.

*America did not invent human rights. In a very real sense, it's the other way around. Human rights invented America. Ours was the first nation in the history of the world to be founded explicitly on such an idea. Our social and political progress has been based on one fundamental principle: the value and importance of the individual. The fundamental force that unites us is not kinship or place of origin or religious preference. The love of liberty is the common blood that flows in our American veins.*

— President Jimmy Carter

1. What does President Carter say about human rights and America?

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2. What does he say is the basis of American social and political progress?

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3. What does he say unites all Americans?

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4. Give examples that show how American society values the individual.

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5. What are the problems and benefits of the American system?

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6. If you are originally from a different country, compare your country with the United States.

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## STUDENT HANDOUT 22

### The United Nations Declaration on Tolerance

Below are five statements that are part of the *UN Declaration on Tolerance*. Read each one carefully and then answer the questions that follow. Please be candid; say what you truly think. You should, however, be prepared to defend your opinion in a class discussion.

Take the second copy of this handout to someone outside of class and ask them to respond to the same questions. They could be other members of your family, a friend, someone in your neighborhood, and so forth. Select someone that you are quite sure will be willing to help you out. All answers can be short.

*People need their beliefs. But today a new form of solidarity is required, a life more closely bound up with others, and we must therefore take greater care than ever before to ensure that our convictions do not lead to patterns of behavior which exclude others.*

1. Do you agree with the conclusion drawn by this statement? Why or why not?
2. Are you optimistic that people in the world will not allow their convictions to exclude others? Explain.

*We are aware that we all have a responsibility for a better planetary order, that involvement for the sake of human rights, freedom, justice, peace, and the preservation of the earth is possible and necessary; that our different religious and cultural traditions must not prevent our common involvement in opposing all forms of inhumanity and working for greater humaneness; . . .*

1. Do you agree with the message in this statement? Why or why not?
2. Do you think that people in the world will put aside different religious and cultural traditions to oppose all forms of inhumanity and will work for greater humaneness? Explain.

*There is no alternative to tolerance, which, while by no means solving all the problems, can enable us to tackle them in a spirit of open-mindedness, progress, and peace.*

1. Do you agree with this message? Why or why not?
2. Can tolerance enable us to tackle problems with an open mind? Do you think people in the world are tolerant enough to attempt tackling the world's problems in a spirit of open-mindedness, progress, and peace? Explain.

*Tolerance on the part of each and every one means an attitude devoid of arrogance in relations between the generations, the sexes, individuals and communities, and between the human race and nature.*

1. Do you agree with this definition of tolerance? Explain.
2. Do you believe that tolerance for nature should be included in this declaration? Why or why not?

*Different peoples must be encouraged to learn about one another . . . in order to avoid tenacious prejudices and ingrained stereotypes.*

1. Do you agree with the thought in this sentence? Why or why not?
2. Can people in the world put aside prejudices and stereotypes if they know more about each other? Explain.

*Tolerance must be the new name of peace.*

1. Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
2. How can tolerance stimulate peace?

# **STUDENT HANDOUT 2**

## **Personal Survey**

Answer the following questions as completely as you can. You will be invited to share your responses with the rest of the class, but you will not be required to do so. Part I of this handout should help you identify your tolerance of others' opinions. Part II should help you recognize a time when your beliefs or actions were not tolerated. Use the back of this page if you need more space.

### **PART I**

1. What are some beliefs of which it is hard for you to be tolerant?
2. Describe a situation in which you behaved intolerantly. What were the consequences to the person or group of which you were intolerant?
3. Which rights did you violate or deny to those of whom you were intolerant?
4. What motivated your action of intolerance?
5. How were you affected by the situation? At the time, how did you feel about what you did? How do you feel about the incident now?

### **PART II**

1. Describe an episode when someone was not tolerant of you because of something you believed.
2. Why do you think they acted as they did?
3. What was your response to their intolerance? How did the experience make you feel?
4. Did this episode make you more or less tolerant toward others? Why?