

Two Thumbs Up: Rating Human Rights

To be used with "Rights Activism in China." By Ching Kwan Lee. *Contexts*. Summer 2008.

Below is a simplified list of the 30 human rights accorded to every human being in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Place a "+" by the 5 human rights that you think are the most important and a "-" by the 5 rights that you think are the least important.

- _____ Right to Equality
- _____ Freedom from Discrimination
- _____ Right to Life, Liberty, Personal Security
- _____ Freedom from Slavery
- _____ Freedom from Torture and Degrading Treatment
- _____ Right to Recognition as a Person before the Law
- _____ Right to Equality before the Law
- _____ Right to Remedy by Competent Tribunal
- _____ Freedom from Arbitrary Arrest and Exile
- _____ Right to Fair Public Hearing
- _____ Right to be Considered Innocent until Proven Guilty
- _____ Freedom from Interference with Privacy, Family, Home and Correspondence
- _____ Right to Free Movement in and out of the Country
- _____ Right to Asylum in other Countries from Persecution
- _____ Right to a Nationality and the Freedom to Change It
- _____ Right to Marriage and Family
- _____ Right to Own Property
- _____ Freedom of Belief and Religion

- _____ Freedom of Opinion and Information
- _____ Right of Peaceful Assembly and Association
- _____ Right to Participate in Government and in Free Elections
- _____ Right to Social Security
- _____ Right to Desirable Work and to Join Trade Unions
- _____ Right to Rest and Leisure
- _____ Right to Adequate Living Standard
- _____ Right to Education
- _____ Right to Participate in the Cultural Life of Community
- _____ Right to a Social Order that Articulates this Document
- _____ Community Duties Essential to Free and Full Development
- _____ Freedom from State or Personal Interference in the above Rights

Questions to consider:

1. Explain the rationale behind the rights you chose as most important and those that you listed as least important.
2. How do you think your culture impacts what you view as important human rights?
3. Are there any rights that you think should be included that are not on this list?
Are there any rights that you think are unnecessary?
4. Does it seem like some rights are prioritized more than others today?