

Handout A: Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) Answer Key

1. Students may note the following:
 - Similarity: many of the same themes and concepts are addressed, e.g., equal and inherent rights, freedom of speech and assembly, protection of property rights, etc.
 - Difference: most Articles of UDHR assert “Everyone has the right...,” whereas the U.S. Bill of Rights is written in terms that limit government action, “Congress shall make no law...; No person shall be held...” Lead students to discuss the principle of negative/positive rights. Negative rights can be exercised without action from anyone else, e.g. freedom of speech, press, religion, etc. This is in contrast to positive rights which require others to act on one’s behalf, e.g. education, healthcare, housing.
2. Accept reasoned responses.
3. “Every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance”