

Magna Carta

Background

The Magna Carta was the most significant early influence on the long historical process that led to the rule of constitutional law today. The Magna Carta required the king to give up certain rights, respect certain legal procedures, and accept that *the king was limited by law*. The Magna Carta listed the demands the nobles had for the king. When the king signed the Magna Carta, it guaranteed basic political rights to the nobles. Since then, it has served as the foundation of many governments. The rights listed in the Magna Carta have been carried over to new constitutions in other countries, like the *French Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen* and the *U.S. Constitution*.

Create Your Own Magna Carta

What are your rights as a student? Do you have any rights? Should you have rights? This project is designed to help you think about those rights you think you deserve at school. Your job is to create your own Magna Carta. Because the Magna Carta served as a foundation for our government, you will use the letters "MAGNA CARTA" as a foundation for your project. From the letters you will list the rights you think that your school should guarantee you.

Directions

- #1: Use a piece of paper to write the letters MAGNA CARTA down the left hand side.
- #2: Develop a list of 10 limitations on the administration's power, or rights that you believe you are entitled to have at school.
For example, you might believe that you are entitled to a longer lunch time. If so, use that as one of your rights *but be specific*. Do not simply state "longer," state exactly how long it should be. Make wise choices, not just funny ones.
- #3: Each right or statement of right needs to be written so that it begins with a letter of the Magna Carta.
- #4: Be creative and neat as it will be displayed in the classroom.

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