Objective

By the end of this lesson, the student will understand the basic concepts of civics, including the importance of rules, the role of government, and how citizens can participate in their community.

Materials and Prep

- Paper and colored pencils or crayons
- A timer or stopwatch
- Sticky notes or small pieces of paper
- A comfortable space for discussion and activities

Before the lesson, think about some local community issues or events that the student might find interesting. Prepare a few examples of rules or laws that are important in your daily life.

Activities

- **Rule Maker:**

  The student will create their own set of rules for a fictional community. They will think about what rules are important to keep everyone safe and happy. Afterward, they can share their rules and explain why they chose them.

- **Government Role Play:**

  The student will role-play different government jobs (like mayor, police officer, or teacher) and discuss what each job does to help the community. They can take turns acting out scenarios based on their roles.

- **Community Helpers Collage:**

  Using paper and colored pencils, the student will create a collage of community helpers (like firefighters, doctors, and teachers) and write down how each person helps the community. This will help them understand the importance of civic participation.

- **Sticky Note Voting:**

  The student will think of a fun community project (like a park cleanup or a school event) and write it on a sticky note. Then, they will "vote" on which project they think is the best idea by placing their sticky notes on a chart. This will show how voting works in a fun way!

Talking Points

- "Why do you think rules are important in our community?"
- "Can you name a job in the government and what that person does?"
- "What are some ways you can help your community?"
- "How do you think voting helps people make decisions?"
- "What would happen if we didn't have any rules?"
- "Can you think of a time when you saw someone helping others?"
- "What is one new rule you would make if you were in charge?"