Name:

Period:

**Rule of Law**

**Activity 1**

*Directions: After watching the video on the Rule of Law from the US Institute of Peace (found at* [*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZDd2v18vfw*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZDd2v18vfw)*), answer the following questions about the video by typing your answers into the right column of the chart.*

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| **QUESTIONS** | **Your Answers**  **(*make sure to use evidence from the video*)** |
| 1) According to the different people in the video, what does the rule of law mean? |  |
| 2) How does the rule of law protect citizens? |  |
| 3) What happens in a society that does not have the rule of law? |  |
| 4) What does the following quote from the video mean?  *“The clearest way to show what the rule of law means to us in everyday life is to recall what has happened when there is no rule of law.”*  –D. Eisenhower |  |
| 5) How does the video describe a society that abides by (supports) the rule of law? |  |

6) What would life be like in a society without rules or laws, or without laws that applied equally and fairly to all? Create a scenario.

**Activity 2**

*Directions: Think about the following statements and scenarios about the Rule of Law, and use them to help you answer the questions in bold.*

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| **QUESTIONS** | **Your Answers** |
| A) The “rule of law” is in place to make sure everyone follows the laws.  **What is a law? Who must follow laws?** |  |
| B) The “rule of law” protects citizens from arbitrary and abusive uses of government power. For example, a country’s leader cannot put people in prison because he/she did not like them.  **What does arbitrary mean?** |  |
| C) The "rule of law" makes sure the government is held accountable. For example, a parent is held accountable for their child's well-being.  **What does it mean to be held accountable?** |  |
| D) The "rule of law" requires the government to be transparent. For example, citizens learn information about government actions through the news media, and laws are published so that all are aware of them.  **What does government transparency mean?** |  |
| E) The “rule of law” requires that the government follows fair procedures. For example, two citizens accused of a crime should both go through the same steps to determine if they are innocent or guilty of that crime.  **What does fairness mean?** |  |
| F) A legal immigrant applies for a green card. The official in charge, who thinks there are too many immigrants in the U.S., ignores immigration laws and denies her application.  **Does this reflect the Rule of Law? Why or why not?** |  |
| G) Justin Bieber is accused and convicted of running a red light. He goes before a judge known for enforcing fines no matter who it is. And although the judge is a fan of the celebrity, he forces him to pay the full fine.  **Does this reflect the Rule of Law? Why or why not?** |  |
| H) Two people are accused of stealing potatoes from the local Wal-Mart. One person is given a trial-by-jury and is found guilty and sentenced to a $50 fine. The other person was sentenced in secret to 20 years of hard labor, with no word to his family or friends as to where he was or what had happened to him.  **Does this reflect the Rule of Law? Why or why not?** |  |