

# Distinguishing Policy & Community Practice

## An Introduction



### Distinguishing Policy & Community Practice: An Introduction Facilitator Guide

**Learning Objective:** To learn the basic difference between a policy and a community practice

**Additional Information:** This activity is suggested to be completed before students do the *What's What: Policies & Practices Related to Our Issue*.

1. Display the following table in front of your class.

| Column 1: _____  | Column 2: _____  |
|--|--|
| Chewing gum is not allowed in school                             | I choose to wear jeans on the weekends   |
| You must be 16 to get a driver's license                         | My neighbors recycle their bottles and cans  |
| ABC Pharmaceutical Company does not test its products on animals | A big group of high school students usually hangs out at the local skate park on Friday nights |

Explain that one column is a list of policies and the other is a list of practices.

2. **Ask:** "What do the statements in the first list have in common?"

**Answer:** They are rules or guidelines established by people/organizations in authority.

Explain that we refer to these as policies. There are public policies, which are rules/laws instituted by various levels of the government, and private policies, which are by private institutions, like your school or ABC Pharmaceutical Company.

3. **Ask:** "What do the statements in the second list have in common?"

**Answer:** They are habits and behaviors – basically things people do.

Explain that we refer to these as practices. They can either follow or contradict policies, if a policy is in place.

4. Debrief by explaining that we will be exploring and gathering information on policies and practices for the chosen issue. Answer any clarifying questions needed to move forward.

