**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.