



Listening Activities

ACTIVE LISTENING AND NOTE-TAKING

Use the guiding questions below to help guide notetaking. It is important to remember that while students may not generate a definitive answer, having a question in mind may provide some parameters for identifying key ideas and terms.

Episode One - This Group Chat Will Surprise You

Why do people believe having ideological and cultural diversity in third spaces to be important for any civic discussions?

Episode Two - Innovations in Democracy

What are the essential 'ingredients' for a democracy?

Episode Three: The Notwithstanding Clause - Hero or Villain?

Why should Canadians care about the notwithstanding clause?



Episode Four - Is Technology Democracy's Savior or Downfall

How has technology shaped how democracies worked- for better or for worse?

Episode Five - The Politics of (Back) Home

How can politics 'back home' influence how diasporic communities view politics in Canada?

Note-taking template

Topic/Guiding Question:

How can politics 'back home' influence how diasporic communities view politics in Canada?

RECALL (after you listen, create headings/group your ideas)

RECORD (as fully as possible what you hear in the podcast)

--	--

REFLECTION

--

SAMPLE

Topic/Guiding Question:

Why should Canadians care about the notwithstanding clause?

RECALL (after you listen, create headings/group your ideas)

What is the Notwithstanding Clause?

Why was it introduced?

Who gets the "last word" on rights?

Why should citizens care?

Recent uses

Pop culture references

RECORD (as fully as possible what you hear in the podcast)

Section 33 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. - Allows federal or provincial governments to override certain Charter rights for five years. - Often described as a uniquely Canadian compromise.

Introduced in early 1980s by PM Pierre Trudeau. - Aimed to secure provincial support for the Charter. - Balances power between judiciary and legislatures.

Debate between courts vs. elected legislatures. - Clause gives final word to elected representatives - ideally reflecting the will of the people.

Could be used to override your rights. - Forces a societal conversation about what kind of society Canada wants to be.

Warda: It pauses your rights for 5 years in favor of another government priority. - Karin: Suspends parts of the Charter without meaningful process.

Quebec's Bill 21: bans religious symbols for public servants.
- Saskatchewan law: restricts name/pronoun changes for minors in school.- Law bans students under 16 from changing gender identity at school without parental consent.
Ontario 2022: Ford's use of clause to stop education workers' strike.
- Massive public and union backlash led to repeal.
- Shows public accountability can work with strong mobilization.
- Invokes S.33 to avoid legal review.
- Puts educators in legal and ethical dilemmas.
- Used without debate or court review - raising concerns.

Biro: Joker - chaos, disruption, impunity.
- Warda: Wolverine - complex anti-hero with internal struggles.
- Karin: Dave Chappelle/Roseanne Barr - once meaningful, now problematic and harmful.

SUMMARY/REFLECTION

The Notwithstanding Clause is a powerful tool that allows governments to override certain rights, originally intended as a last resort but increasingly used as a first response. It raises questions about democratic accountability, legal checks, and citizen engagement.