**You Can Make a Difference**

**AS SENATOR KASSEBAUM** knew, democracy relies on all of its citizens. Activists of any age can work for causes they believe in. Danny Seo, once called the “Green Teen,” says, “If all of us start taking action, we can change the world.” Danny first took up a cause—animal rights and the environment—on his twelfth birthday. That day, he started a national environmental group that soon claimed over 20,000 teen members. Since then, Danny has won numerous awards and launched a line of environmentally friendly clothing, a new book series, and a satellite radio show. “Just start somewhere,” he urges potential activists.

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**SECTION 1**

**Government and the State** (pp. 4–10)

- Government enables a society to protect the peace and carry out its policies.
- A state, not to be confused with one of the fifty States of the United States, is a land with people, a defined territory, and a sovereign government.
- Several theories attempt to explain the origin of the state.
- Among these theories, the political philosophy of John Locke had the most profound impact on the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution.
- The goals of the Federal Government are described in the Preamble to the Constitution.

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**SECTION 2**

**Forms of Government** (pp. 12–16)

- Each government is unique, but governments can be grouped into categories according to three sets of characteristics.
- Democratic governments rely on the participation of the people, while dictatorships concentrate power in the hands of a few.
- The distribution of power between local governments and a central government determines whether a government is unitary, federal, or confederate.
- Presidential governments divide power among several branches of government, while parliamentary governments focus power in one dominant branch.

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**SECTION 3**

**Basic Concepts of Democracy** (pp. 18–22)

- Democracy is built upon five principles: respect for the individual, equality of all persons, acceptance of majority rule and minority rights, compromise, and protection of individual freedoms.
- The free enterprise system of the United States, like democracy, relies on individual freedoms.
- In a mixed economy, the government plays a role in the economy.
- The Internet has opened up new opportunities for democracy, but users must carefully evaluate the information that they find.

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