

Overview

Students identify and research an example of democratic backsliding, then write an op-ed describing the danger and proposing a way to address the backsliding.

Length

Two–three classes

Materials

- [Laws, Norms, and Democratic Backsliding](#) (World101)
- [Regions of the World](#) (World101) or a news source with good coverage of world news

Instructional Plan

1. Assign students to read “Laws, Norms, and Democratic Backsliding,” paying particular attention to examples of how democracies can backslide.
2. Using “Regions of the World” or a news source, have students choose a country experiencing democratic backsliding. You could specify that they should choose a country that is not used as an example in “Laws, Norms, and Democratic Backsliding.”
3. Assign students to write an op-ed article that describes the backsliding in their chosen country, explains why it is a problem, and proposes a course of action for the country to become more democratic.