Problem solving -- Examining participation

The Founders believed that the main purpose of government was to protect people's basic rights. Almost all citizens have the right to participate in governing our nation. They may choose among many different ways of doing this. Some ways to participate are listed below.

Ways citizens can participate:

1. looking for information in newspapers, magazines, and reference materials and judging its accuracy
2. voting in local, state, and national elections
3. participating in a political discussion
4. trying to persuade someone to vote a certain way
5. signing a petition
6. wearing a button or putting a sticker on the car
7. writing letters to elected representatives
8. contributing money to a party or candidate
9. attending meetings to gain information, discuss issues, or lend support
10. campaigning for a candidate
11. lobbying (persuading) for laws that are of special interest
12. demonstrating through marches, boycotts, sit-ins, or other forms of protest
13. serving as a juror
14. holding public office (city council, state senator, etc)
15. serving the country through military or other service
16. disobeying laws and taking the consequences to demonstrate that a law or policy is unjust
17. working in a public service career (law enforcement, emergency services, public defender, public education, public health)
18. serving in the military
19. ***Name advantages and/or disadvantages to 10 of the forms of participation listed above?***
20. ***Are all these forms of participation equally important in protecting our basic rights? Why or why not? Which 3 seem the most important?***
21. ***Which forms of participation could you, as a minor, demonstrate active citizenship? Explain.***