Benefits of Having Citizens Participate in the Democratic Process

From the perspective of a citizen	From the perspective of a government

• Can get point of view across
• Feel heard
• Have a say in government; no dictator
• Feel empowered
• Can make positive changes/improvements
• Quality of life is higher when you're not oppressed
• Freedom of speech
• Right to peaceably assemble
• Can influence own life/living conditions
• Can contribute ideas
• Can take a leadership role
• Feel a sense of community/working together
• Better chance of getting what you want
• Predictability
• All have an opportunity to participate equally
	• Gets new ideas from citizens
	• Citizens are more loyal
	    -- more willing to pay taxes
	    -- more likely to serve in army
	• Less violence (conflicts resolved through voting)
	• Less likely to have violent protests/rebellion/revolt
	• Citizens feel responsible
	• Citizens feel like "we're all in this together"
	• Country has sense of unity because all have had a chance to participate
	• Citizens don't blame the government for problems
	• Citizens are more tolerant of different ideas
	• Easier to make decisions
	• You know what people want
	• Diversity of opinions
	• Getting feedback