

Learning for Democracy

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– **The Future of Democracy**
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SKOL
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Learning democracy

– teaching practices in focus

Review question:

Which teaching practices promote democracy learning?



Why a systematic review?

Results from focus group with teachers in Sweden:

- **Teaching democracy is important**
- **Unclear what and how to teach**
- **Difficult to find relevant research**
- **A wealth of materials and recommendations**

Inclusion and exclusion criteria

- **Empirical research**
- **Focus on learning outcomes**
- **Independent variables: Classroom teaching K-12**
- **Dependent variables: Knowledge, skills, attitudes and values**
- **Relevant to Swedish context**

Search syntax *Education Source*

EBSCOhost, search modes Boolean/Phrase, 2021-10-04

Keywords		Number of studies
Category A: Teaching		
1	TI (classroom OR teach* OR instruction* OR didactic* OR pedagog* OR learn*) OR AB (classroom OR teach* OR instruction* OR didactic* OR pedagog* OR learn*) OR SU (classroom OR teach* OR instruction* OR didactic* OR pedagog* OR learn*)	1 506 745
Category B: Students and children		
2	TI (student* OR pupil* OR child*) OR AB (student* OR pupil* OR child*) OR SU (student* OR pupil* OR child*)	1 722 915
Category C: Democracy		
3	TI democra* OR AB democra* OR SU democra*	75 858
Combination		
4	1 AND 2 AND 3	6 931
5	4 NOT SU (“higher education” OR universit* OR tertiary OR “post secondary” OR postsecondary OR college*)	5 844
6	5 AND Limiters: Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals	3 781
Narrow by Language: - Swedish		
Narrow by Language: - undetermined		
Narrow by Language: - English		

AB = Abstract
KW = Keywords
SU = Subject
TI = Title
* = Truncation

Searches and selection

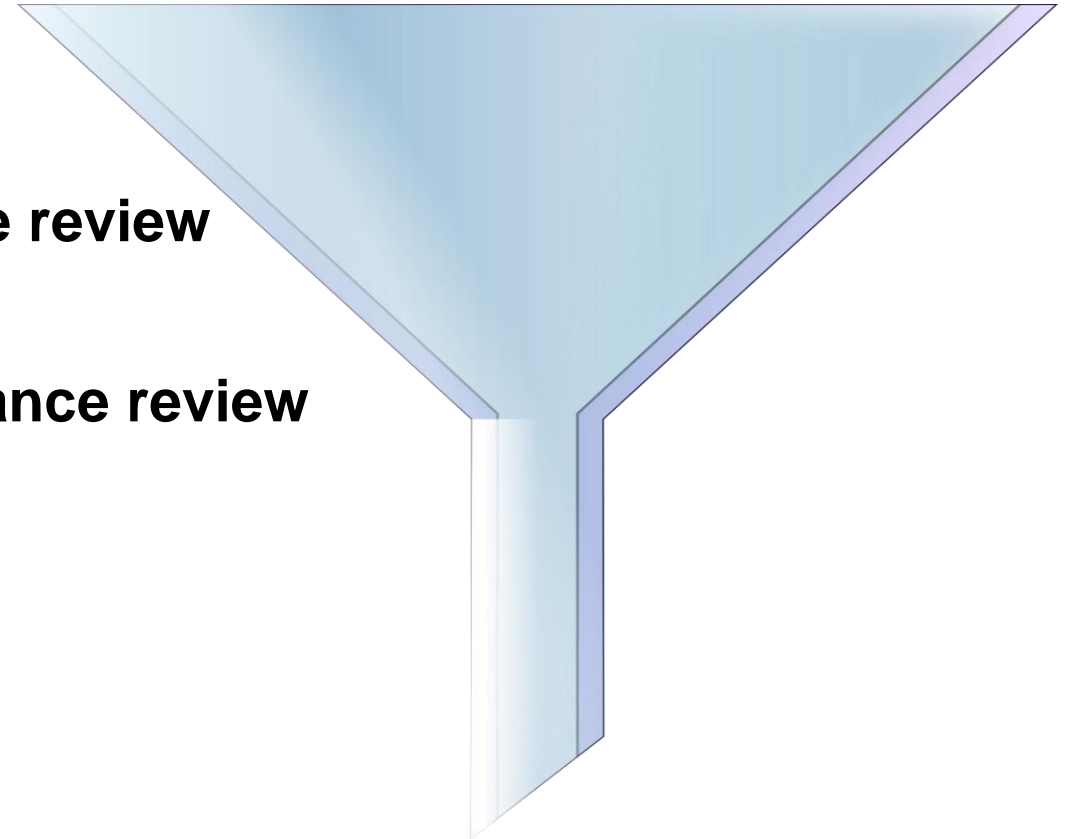
7771 studies found in extensive searches

702 studies remaining after first relevance review

139 studies remaining after blinded relevance review

54 studies remaining after full text review

32 studies included after quality review



Results

Intervention studies

- Discussions and group work
- Simulations and decision-making processes
- Use of news media and texts about politics
- Collaboration with the surrounding community

Correlational studies

- An open classroom climate
- Active student participation in teaching
- Teachers' commitment and leadership



Illustration: Ása Jóhannsdóttir

Conclusions

- **Active student involvement such as working with projects in small groups strengthens political engagement and understanding of other people's opinions.**
- **Teachers can strengthen political knowledge, political commitment and political self-confidence by giving students the opportunity to practice democracy through simulations of democratic decision-making in the classroom, through, for example, role-playing and games.**
- **Deliberative and participatory approaches are promising for reducing inequalities in democratic dispositions between students.**
- **Creating an open classroom climate is promising for promoting students' knowledge of democracy and politics.**

What happens now?



**Forthcoming publication
of book chapter in
English**



**Review used as evidence
base for Swedish
government initiative
[Democracy step by step](#)**



**Need for collaborative
efforts going forward**



**Need for practice based
research to evaluate new
initiatives and
innovations**

Other reports in Swedish

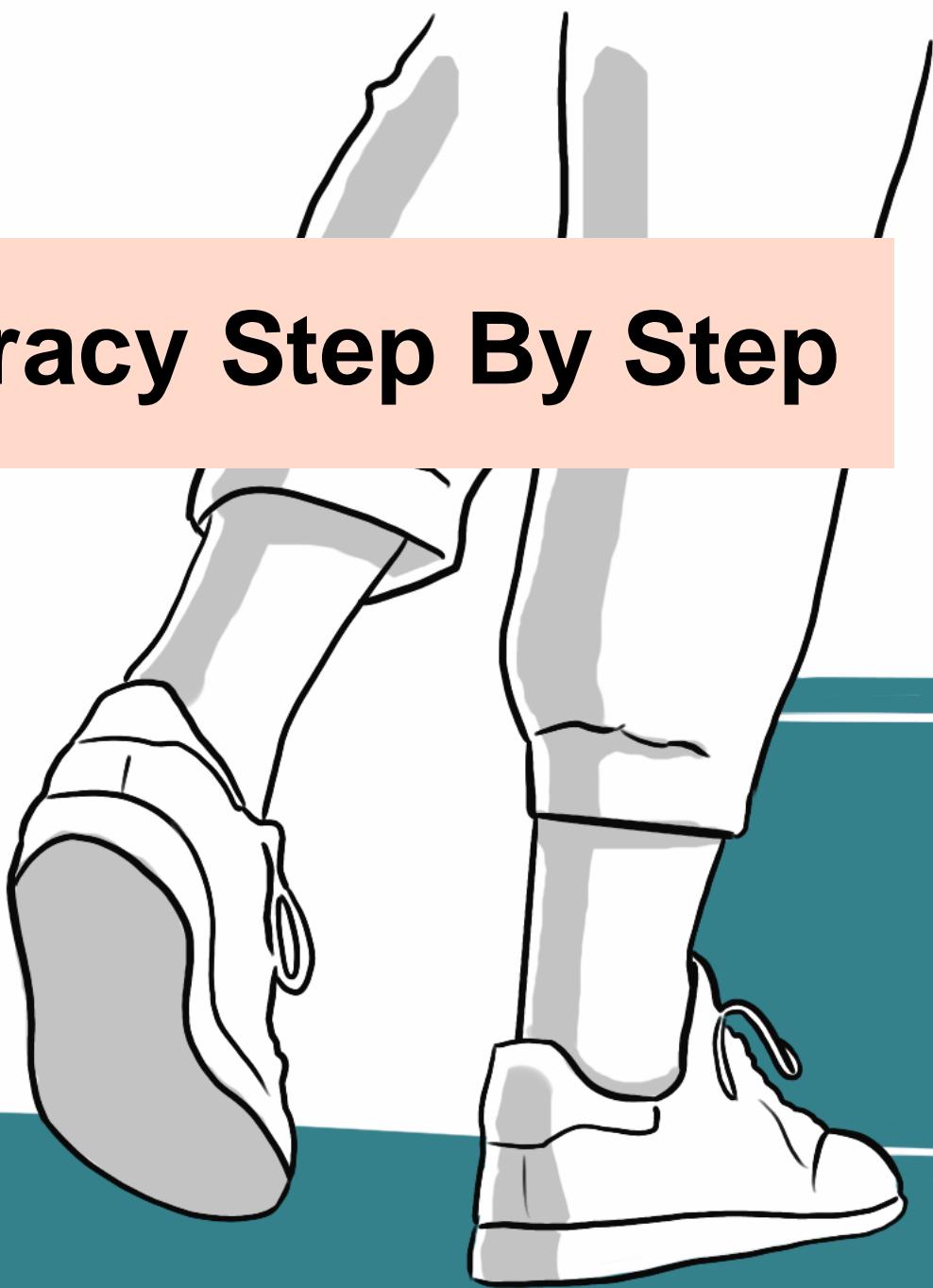
Summary and comment of other systematic reviews:

School-based teaching for democracy: A systematic review of teaching methods in quantitative intervention studies.

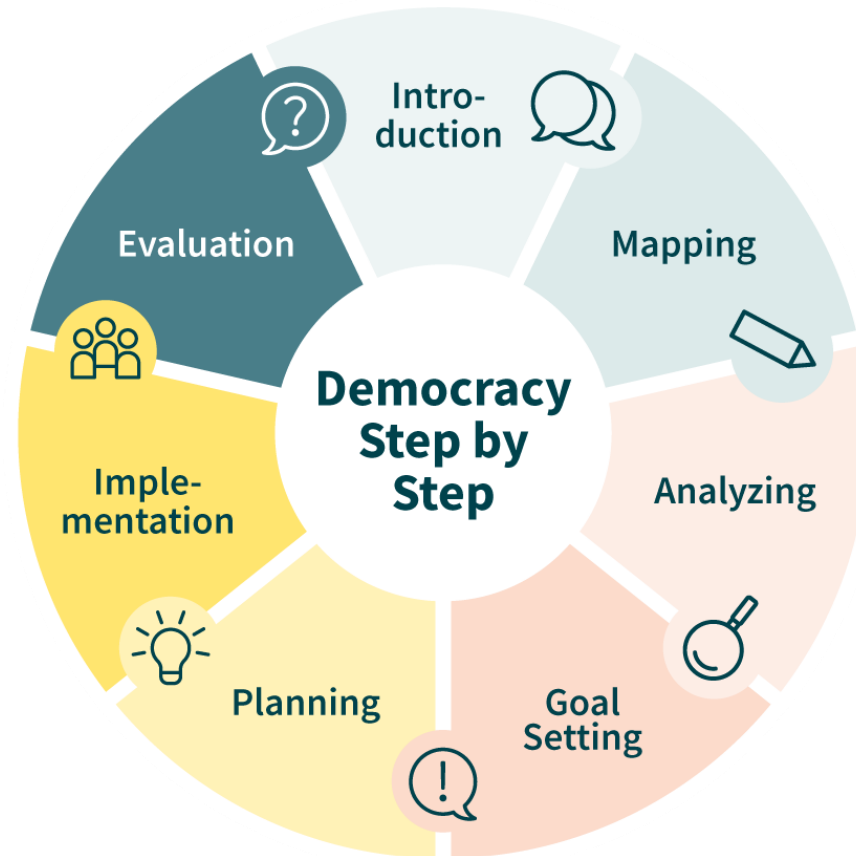
Teegelbeckers, J. Y., Nieuwelink, H., & Oostdam, R. J. (2023). Educational Research Review, 39(2), 100511.



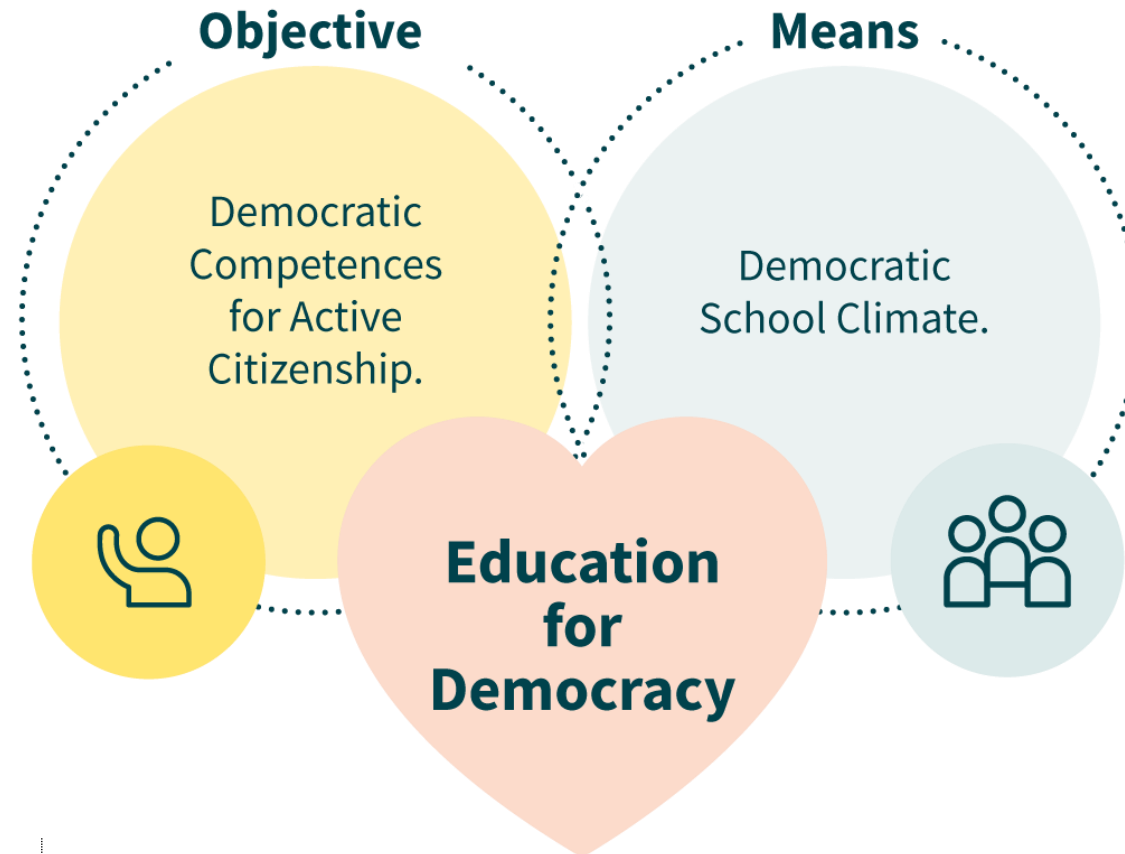
Democracy Step By Step



Systematic Whole School Approach

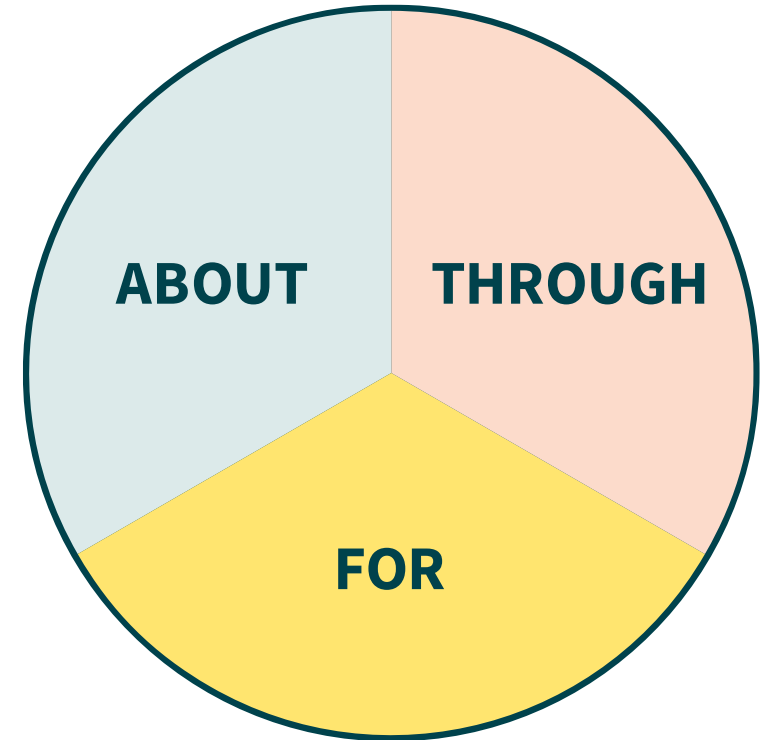


Common vision and understanding



Learning about, through and for democracy

- Learn **about** democracy and human rights
- ...**through** a democratic school climate and...
- ...**for** active citizenship to strengthen our democracies.



Reflection/ discussion

Best practice from your democracy teaching according to conclusions in the systematic review;

- **Active student involvement**
- **Democratic practices in the classroom**
- **Deliberative and participatory approaches**
- **Open classroom climate**

How do students learn democracy and how can we support them in the best possible way?