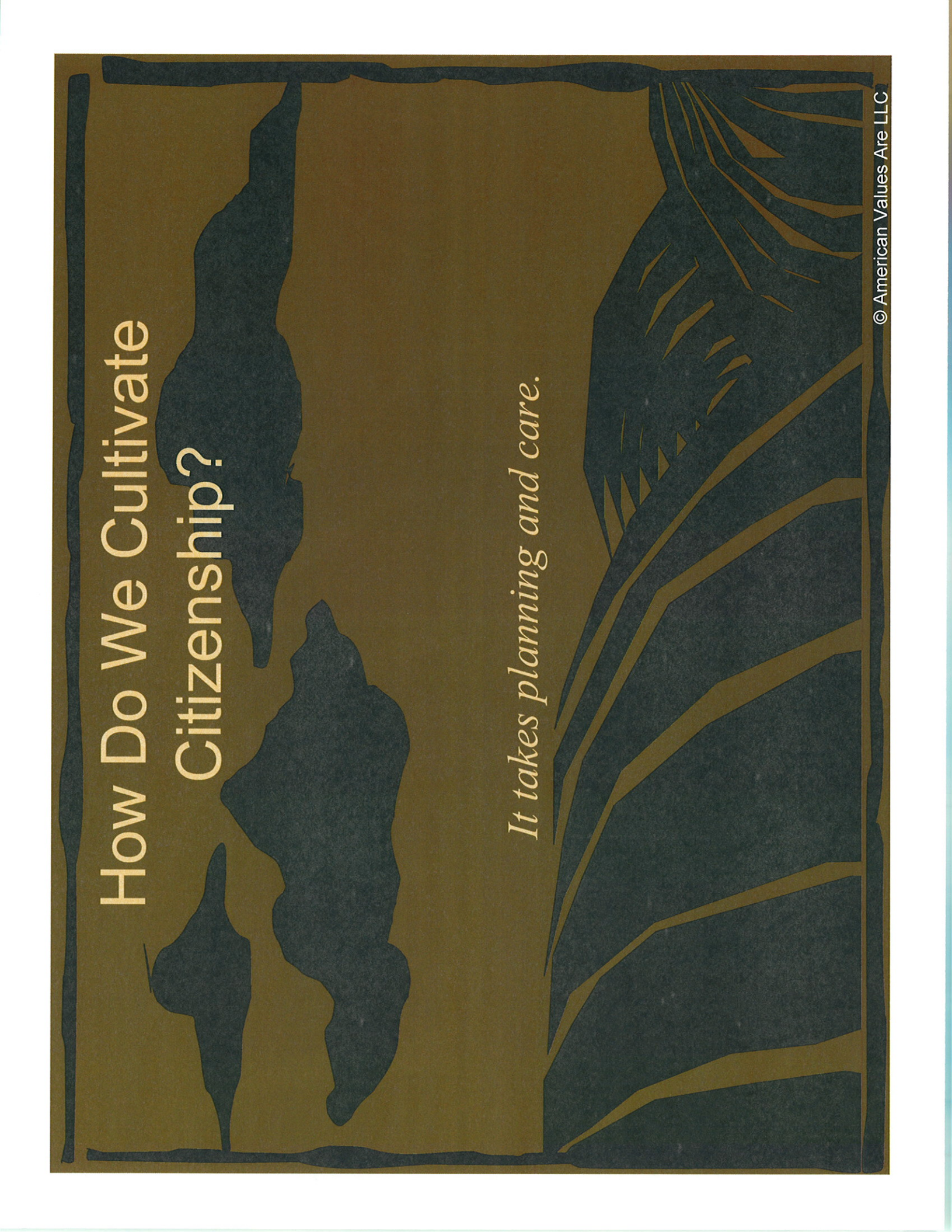




# Civic Engagement:

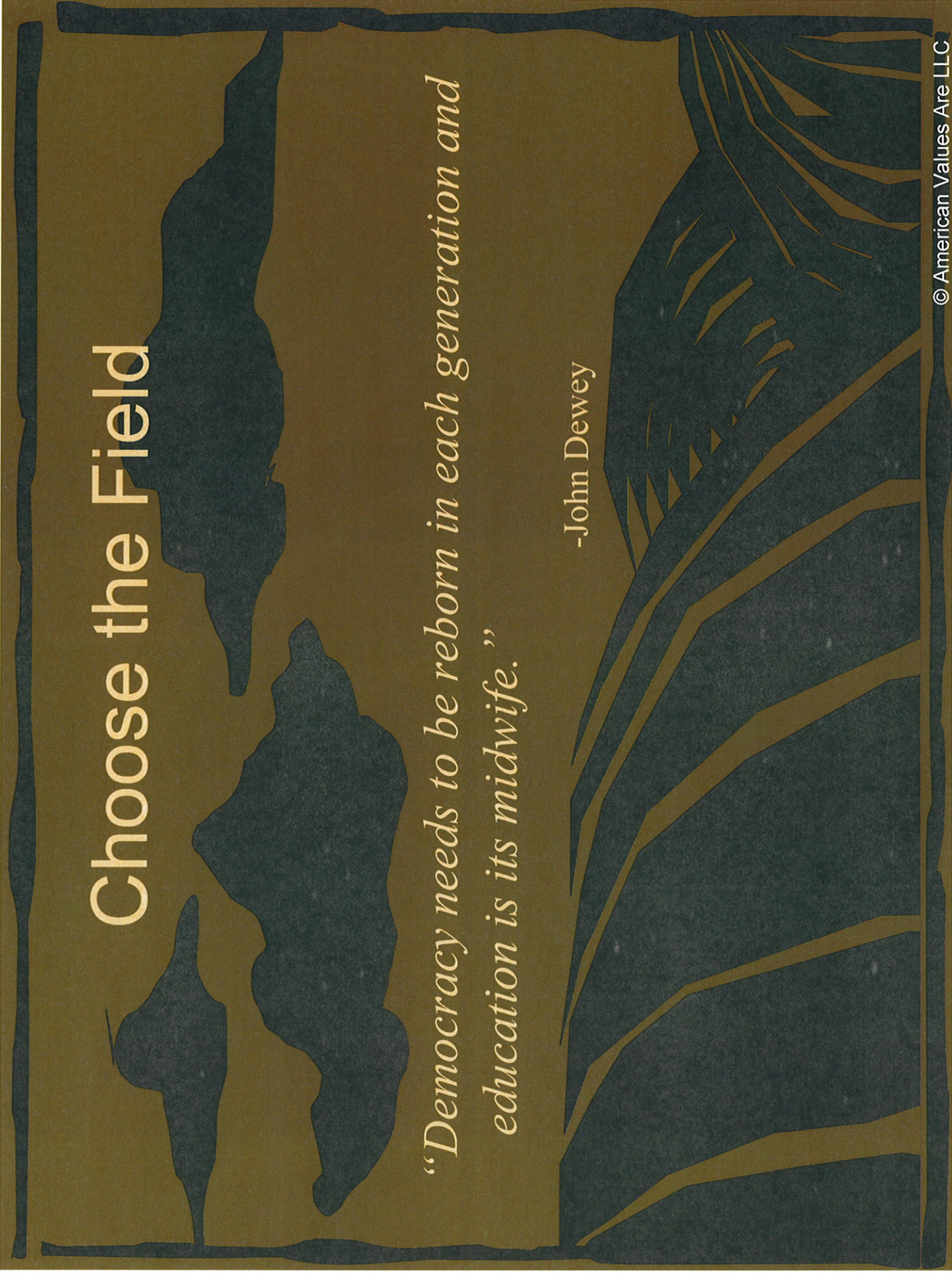
Making the Connections Needed for  
Meaningful Dialogue

A Metaphor from the Midwest

The background of the entire page is a stylized American flag. The stripes are represented by dark blue and black wavy bands, and the stars are represented by dark blue and black shapes. The overall color palette is dark and monochromatic.

# How Do We Cultivate Citizenship?

*It takes planning and care.*

A stylized, high-contrast illustration of a landscape. The background is a dark, textured brown. In the foreground, there are dark, jagged shapes representing mountains or hills. To the right, there are several vertical, curved lines of a lighter brown color, suggesting a field or a path. The overall style is graphic and minimalist.

# Choose the Field

*“Democracy needs to be reborn in each generation and education is its midwife.”*

-John Dewey

# Till the Ground

- It takes civics, ethics, tolerance, empathy, and a reason to engage.

*“...a firm grasp of critical thinking, teamwork, and written communication, as well as an understanding of civics, ethics, and different cultures.”*

-Jan 10, 2007 report of the American Association of Colleges and Universities, reported in Education Week 1/17/07



# Plant the Seeds

- Lead by example, invitation, service, and values.

*“I voted with my father. He never missed an election  
and neither have I!”*

-Citizen, Age 51



# Weeding and Watching

- Share, question, inform, challenge

*“We can have facts without thinking but we cannot have thinking without facts.”*

-John Dewey



# Harvesting

- Citizens are engaged, able to solve the civic issues that directly affect their lives, and contribute to policy development.

*“I am a firm believer in people. If given truth, they can be depended upon to meet any national crisis. The great point is to bring them the real facts.”*

-Abraham Lincoln



# 21st Century Skills

*“ ...life in 21<sup>st</sup> century United States will demand that its inhabitants be flexible thinkers and expert communicators. All adolescents, but especially those from underserved communities, will need to... develop expertise with text that they will value throughout their lives.”*

*-Minority Student Achievement Network*



# Why Democracy?

*Democracy does not give the people the most skillful government, but it produces what the ablest governments are frequently unable to create, namely an all-pervading and restless activity, a super-abundant force, and an energy which is inseparable from it and which may, however unfavorable circumstances may be, produce wonders. These are the true advantages of democracy.*

*-Alexis de Tocqueville, Democracy in America, 1835.*