

Name _____

Date _____



Representative Democracy

Middle school means more freedom but also
Responsibility. That's why the Student Council
Has given the power to the people
To make decisions about the Fall Dance—equal
Say in the planning. Democracy!
We hold a school-wide vote to pick the dance theme.
The votes pour in, and "Glow in the Dark" wins.
Ah, wait—we should have included refreshments on the ballot.
We hold another vote, and fewer people
Participate but still enough to pick pizza.
Oh no! We need to choose a DJ.
We still get some votes but only 28.
Everyone seems tired of voting,
And we're tired, too. "You know, this
Is more like direct democracy," Lena says.
"That's when everyone votes on major decisions.
But to be on Student Council, we all won elections.
Our classmates voted for us to make decisions."
She was right; it was clear we should be
Acting as a representative democracy.

In a representative democracy, we choose
Representatives.
Those are people who
Make decisions for
Me, you, you, and you.
They work for us; we vote them in

To represent our views.

Lena knew about this because she's from Switzerland—

A direct democracy—so decisions

Are made by all voters. They vote four times each year

On all kinds of issues.

“When we first moved here,”

Lena said, “My family had to get used to

Your elections.” This made me realize our school

Is like the US—a representative democracy.

We elect senators and representatives to be

Our voice to decide on laws.

We vote for the president and VP we want

To enforce those laws. And our state government

Is a representative democracy, too.

We vote in State reps and state senators

To make laws on our behalf—and a governor

To enforce laws. These elected officials

Represent us; they work for the people.

When I'm old enough to vote, I'll take the time

To study each candidate and pick the one I like.

But right now, we've got a dance to plan,

And we'll represent our classmates the best that we can.

In a representative

Democracy, we choose

Representatives.

Those are people who

Make decisions for

Me, you, you, and you.

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