

Voices Through Representatives

Read how representative government can serve a large community.

SS.5.CG.1.3 "Discuss arguments for adopting a representative form of government."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one sentence or sentence group for each of the three arguments for representative government. Number the arguments 1, 2, and 3 to show how each supports this form of government.

Why Elect Representatives?

- ① Imagine a large state with towns far apart. If every voter had to travel to one meeting to debate every law, many people could not attend. Thousands of voices speaking at once would also make careful discussion difficult. A representative government offers another choice. Citizens elect a smaller number of people to speak and vote for them in a lawmaking body.
- ② Supporters give a second reason. Representatives can meet often, study proposed laws, and hear different ideas before voting. They can also bring local knowledge to the lawmaking body. A representative from a farming county may understand concerns about crops and water, while a representative from a coastal city may know harbor needs. This work can give communities a voice and give public problems careful attention.
- ③ Supporters also point to elections. On election day, citizens can choose representatives whose ideas match their own. Later, voters can replace an official who ignores the community or makes choices they oppose. Representatives still need to listen through town meetings, letters, and visits. This connection gives citizens a way to influence government while allowing the lawmaking body to do its work.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What problem could happen if every voter had to meet and debate every law?

2 What can representatives do before voting that supports the argument for electing them?

3 How do the farming county and coastal city examples support representative government?

4 How do elections give citizens influence in a representative government?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write four sentences arguing that a large island should adopt a representative government. State your claim, give three reasons, and include one reason about how citizens can influence representatives.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline one sentence or sentence group for each of the three arguments for representative government. Number the arguments 1, 2, and 3 to show how each supports this form of government. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What problem could happen if every voter had to meet and debate every law?	Many people could not attend, and thousands of people speaking at once could make careful discussion difficult.
2	What can representatives do before voting that supports the argument for electing them?	They can meet often, study proposed laws, and hear different ideas before voting.
3	How do the farming county and coastal city examples support representative government?	They show that representatives can bring knowledge about their own communities' needs, such as crops and water or harbor needs, to the lawmaking body.
4	How do elections give citizens influence in a representative government?	Citizens can choose representatives whose ideas match their own and replace officials who ignore the community or make choices voters oppose.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our large island should choose a representative government. Many residents live far from the capital, so they cannot all attend each law meeting. Elected representatives could study laws and bring ideas from each island community. Elections would let citizens replace representatives who ignore their concerns. Accept equivalent explanations that connect each passage detail to an argument for representative government. For Your Turn, accept a clear claim, three relevant reasons, and an accurate explanation of citizen influence through elections or communication with representatives.