Votes That Matter

How much a vote counts versus what it can change

FM.FD.A.25.a "Distinguish between weight and power in voting."

NAME _____ DATE _____

WEIGHT

Weight is the number of votes a ballot counts for under the rules. A statement about an assigned vote value describes weight.

At a garden council meeting, Jade's ballot counts for 4 votes.

POWER

Power is the ability to affect which option wins or whether a plan passes. A statement about changing or deciding an outcome describes power.

At a plaza vote, Cyrus can make a proposal pass without anyone else's support.

1 SORT

8 items

For each numbered statement, circle WEIGHT or POWER; in Part 2, choose two items and explain how you knew.

1.	In the film club, Mira's ballot counts for 2 votes.	WEIGHT POWER
2.	In the student senate, each senior's ballot counts for 3 votes.	WEIGHT POWER
3.	In the music club, Eli's yes vote raises the total from 4 to the 5 votes needed to pass a plan.	WEIGHT POWER
4.	On the library board, Tia is assigned 1 vote.	WEIGHT POWER
5.	On the robotics team, changing Bo's vote from yes to no makes a plan fail instead of pass.	WEIGHT POWER
6.	The theater committee cannot pass its budget unless Quinn supports it.	WEIGHT POWER
7.	In the school newspaper election, Rae's ballot counts for 5 votes.	WEIGHT POWER
8.	At the art club, each member's vote counts twice.	WEIGHT POWER

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new example of weight and one new example of power.

WEIGHT _____

POWER _____

CHALLENGE

In a council, A has 4 votes and B has 1 vote. A motion needs 4 votes to pass. State B's weight and explain whether B can ever change a failing motion to a passing one.

ANSWER KEY # Votes That Matter

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	In the film club, Mira's ballot counts for 2 votes.	**WEIGHT**	It states the number of votes assigned to Mira's ballot.
2	In the student senate, each senior's ballot counts for 3 votes.	**WEIGHT**	It states an assigned vote value.
3	In the music club, Eli's yes vote raises the total from 4 to the 5 votes needed to pass a plan.	**POWER**	Eli's vote changes the plan from failing to passing.
4	On the library board, Tia is assigned 1 vote.	**WEIGHT**	It states Tia's assigned number of votes.
5	On the robotics team, changing Bo's vote from yes to no makes a plan fail instead of pass.	**POWER**	Changing Bo's vote changes the outcome.
6	The theater committee cannot pass its budget unless Quinn supports it.	**POWER**	Quinn's support is necessary for the budget to pass.
7	In the school newspaper election, Rae's ballot counts for 5 votes.	**WEIGHT**	It states the number of votes assigned to Rae's ballot.
8	At the art club, each member's vote counts twice.	**WEIGHT**	It states how many votes each ballot counts for.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **WEIGHT**: At the science fair vote, Lila's ballot counts for 6 votes.
- **POWER**: In the orchestra vote, Omar's yes vote raises the total from 7 to the 8 votes needed to pass a plan.

Challenge: B's weight is 1 vote. B cannot change a failing motion to a passing one: A can supply all 4 votes needed, but B alone can supply only 1.

Sort key: 1 WEIGHT, 2 WEIGHT, 3 POWER, 4 WEIGHT, 5 POWER, 6 POWER, 7 WEIGHT, 8 WEIGHT. For Part 2, accept explanations that identify an assigned vote value for weight or an effect on the outcome for power.