

Voices at Council

Connect a modern council example to elected leaders in ancient Rome.

3.7.c "identifying and explaining representative democracy;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline this exact sentence in paragraph 1: "This means voters choose community members to speak and make choices for them." Then circle the words "ask questions" and "vote on a plan" in paragraph 2 to show what representatives do.

Riverton Makes Choices

- ① In Riverton, the city council helps make choices for the town. Riverton uses representative democracy. This means voters choose community members to speak and make choices for them. Instead of every resident meeting to decide each issue, representatives bring many people's voices to the council. They are elected for a set term at a time.
- ② Before a council meeting, representatives can learn what people think. They may visit a neighborhood, listen to concerns, and share residents' ideas with the council. During the meeting, council members ask questions and vote on a plan. Their votes can affect parks, streets, or other town services. Representatives should consider the people they were elected to serve.
- ③ In Riverton, adults who are registered to vote choose council members in elections. A council member does not make every choice alone. Council members discuss ideas together, then vote. People can tell members what they need, and members can explain their decisions. If residents disagree, they can speak at meetings and vote in later elections.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What does representative democracy mean in Riverton?

2 Who chooses Riverton's council members?

3 What are two things council members do during a meeting?

4 Name two ways residents can share their ideas or influence council decisions.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Ancient connection: the Roman Republic had elected officials, including consuls who helped govern and commanded armies. Male citizens voted; women could not. Modern representative democracy also lets voters choose people to govern for them. Write three sentences: explain the shared idea, name the Roman officials and a job they did, and identify one limit on voting in ancient Rome. Use Riverton as your modern comparison.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline this exact sentence in paragraph 1: "This means voters choose community members to speak and make choices for them." Then circle the words "ask questions" and "vote on a plan" in paragraph 2 to show what representatives do. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does representative democracy mean in Riverton?	Voters choose community members to speak and make choices for them.
2	Who chooses Riverton's council members?	Adults who are registered to vote choose them in elections.
3	What are two things council members do during a meeting?	They ask questions and vote on a plan.
4	Name two ways residents can share their ideas or influence council decisions.	Answers may include telling members what they need, speaking at meetings, or voting in later elections.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Both systems let voters choose officials to govern for them. In the Roman Republic, elected consuls helped govern and commanded armies. Women could not vote in ancient Rome.

Keep the four accurate Riverton answers as modern scaffolding. Require the open response to explain elected government using the named ancient Roman officials, one stated responsibility, and exclusion of women from voting. Do not accept a school-only example. Rome was a republic with unequal political rights, not an exact copy of a modern democracy; avoid suggesting all Romans could vote or that every office was elected. Sources: Musei Capitolini, Cursus Honorum; Cambridge Companion to the Roman Republic, Women in the Roman Republic.