

# Two Texans in Democratic Life

Compare civic actions and explain why they matter

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Part 1 - Read the source cards and collect evidence

**Directions:** Read both adapted source cards. Then record an action, evidence, and a democratic impact for each person. An impact tells why the action matters to people taking part in government.

### Source A - Barbara Jordan

Barbara Jordan was elected by Texans to represent them in the U.S. House of Representatives. While serving in Congress, she worked in 1975 on extending protections in the Voting Rights Act. Her elected job was to represent citizens in the national government.

*Adapted for classroom use from: U.S. House of Representatives, Office of the Historian, "Barbara Charline Jordan," n.d.*  
<https://history.house.gov/People/Detail?id=16031>

### Source B - Ann Richards

Ann Richards was elected governor of Texas. She served as governor from 1991 to 1995. As governor, she held an elected state office and helped lead Texas's executive branch.

*Adapted for classroom use from: Texas State Library and Archives Commission, "Ann Richards," n.d.*  
<https://www.tsl.texas.gov/governors/modern/richards-p01.html>

| What to record                                  | Barbara Jordan | Ann Richards |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| <b>Civic action</b><br>What did the person do?  |                |              |
| <b>Evidence</b><br>What fact proves it?         |                |              |
| <b>Democratic impact</b><br>Why does it matter? |                |              |

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## Part 2 - Explain the comparison

**Write 4-6 sentences.** Compare Barbara Jordan's and Ann Richards's civic actions. Include one documented action for each person. Explain how **each** action illustrates participation in democratic life. Use the source cards as your evidence.

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### Check before you finish:

- ☐ I named both Texans.    ☐ I used a fact from each source card.
- ☐ I explained Jordan's importance.    ☐ I explained Richards's importance.
- ☐ I told one way their actions were alike or different.

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## Answer key and teaching notes

**Materials and setup:** Print and supply all student pages, keeping teacher-key pages separate. Provide pencils and the two student source cards; no outside research is needed. Seat students where they can read the cards and write independently. This task practices a representative subset of the standard: the importance of Barbara Jordan and Ann Richards as people who participated in democratic life.

**Teaching script:** Say: “Today, we will use evidence to explain why two Texans were important in democratic life. An action is what a person did. Evidence is the source fact that supports the action. Impact is why that action matters in a democracy. Listen to this unrelated example: In a classroom election, Kai votes for a class representative. The action is voting. A completed ballot could be evidence. The impact is that Kai helps choose a representative. Now find actions and evidence for Jordan and Richards. Do not copy only a name; explain why the action matters.”

**Observation method:** While students complete Part 1, check each organizer for one accurate action and one matching source fact in both columns. Ask students who need support: “Which words in the source show what this person did?” During Part 2, listen for both names, an action for each person, and an explanation of democratic participation. Record: secure = all three present; developing = facts present but impact unclear; reteach = name matching or unsupported claim.

### 1. Part 1 answers

Barbara Jordan: Civic action - served as an elected U.S. representative and worked on extending voting-rights protections in 1975. Evidence - the Source A statement that Texans elected her to the U.S. House and that she worked on the 1975 extension. Democratic impact - she represented citizens in Congress and supported protections connected to voting participation.

Ann Richards: Civic action - served as the elected governor of Texas. Evidence - the Source B statement that she was elected governor and served from 1991 to 1995. Democratic impact - citizens choose leaders through elections; serving as governor is participating in an elected public role that helps lead state government.

### 2. Part 2 scoring and sample response

Full-credit response includes both people, one accurate documented action for each, a comparison, and an explanation of why each action matters. Sample: “Barbara Jordan and Ann Richards both participated in democratic life by serving in elected offices. Jordan represented Texans in the U.S. House and worked in 1975 on extending voting-rights protections. Her work was important because voting protections help citizens take part in choosing representatives. Richards was elected governor of Texas and served from 1991 to 1995. Her service was important because voters choose governors to lead state government. Both women served the public, but Jordan worked in Congress while Richards led Texas’s executive branch.” Accept equivalent evidence-based wording.