

One Vote, One Voice

Follow a student council's fair decision process.

4.22.A "use democratic procedures to simulate making decisions on school, local, or state issues; and"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number the 10 sentences from 1 to 10 in reading order. Treat one whole sentence as one procedure, including a rule that makes discussion or voting fair.

A Fair School Choice

- ① At Oak Lane Elementary, the student council met to decide how to use money raised at the spring fair for the school community. The chair stated the question during the meeting: Should the school buy recess games or add books to classroom libraries? The chair announced that every member would have one vote after a fair discussion that day.
- ② Next, the chair gave every member one minute to speak about either choice, so quiet members had time to prepare. Members took turns giving reasons, and listeners did not interrupt or laugh at an idea. The recorder wrote each reason on a chart, then members asked questions about cost and who would use the items at school.
- ③ Finally, each member marked one choice on a private paper ballot. The chair and recorder counted the ballots together at the end of the meeting while other members watched the tally marks. They announced that books received 12 votes and recess games received 8 votes. The council recorded the decision to buy books after using equal speaking time, a secret ballot, and a public count.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What two choices did the council discuss?

2 Which procedures gave every member a chance to share an idea?

3 What did each member do after the discussion and before the ballots were counted?

4 Name two procedures that helped the council make a fair decision.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Work with 3 or 4 classmates to decide one small school issue. Each person gets one vote. In the five rows, record your question and two choices, a fair discussion rule, reasons for both choices, the vote tally, and the final decision.

DEMOCRATIC STEP	OUR GROUP'S RECORD

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Number the 10 sentences from 1 to 10 in reading order. Treat one whole sentence as one procedure, including a rule that makes discussion or voting fair. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two choices did the council discuss?	The council discussed buying recess games or adding books to classroom libraries.
2	Which procedures gave every member a chance to share an idea?	The chair gave each member one minute to speak, and members took turns without interruptions or laughter.
3	What did each member do after the discussion and before the ballots were counted?	Each member marked one choice on a private paper ballot.
4	Name two procedures that helped the council make a fair decision.	Answers may include equal speaking time, taking turns without interruptions, a private ballot, or counting ballots while members watched.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

DEMOCRATIC STEP	OUR GROUP'S RECORD
Question and choices	Which Friday activity should our class choose: board games or a nature walk?
Fair discussion rule	Each person gets one minute to speak. We listen without interrupting.
Reasons from both choices	Board games work indoors. A nature walk gives us exercise.
Vote tally	Board games: 1 vote. Nature walk: 3 votes.
Final decision	Our class will choose a nature walk.

For the marking job, accept one number on each sentence in order: 1 meet to decide, 2 state the question, 3 set the one-vote rule, 4 give equal speaking time, 5 take turns respectfully, 6 record reasons and ask questions, 7 cast private ballots, 8 count ballots publicly, 9 announce results, 10 record the decision. For Your Turn, accept a different reasonable school issue if the group records two choices, a fair discussion procedure, a tally showing one vote per person, and a decision based on the tally.