

Choices in Action

Follow five democratic steps for a school decision.

5.26.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 Underline each sentence that begins with “Step,” and write 1 through 5 beside them to trace how the council made its decision.

A Cafeteria Decision

- ① At Pine Ridge School, the student council practiced making a decision about a quiet reading area in the cafeteria. Ms. Chen explained that a democratic process gives people a chance to share ideas and help choose a plan. The council used five steps so every member could follow the process and see how the final choice was made.
- ② Step 1 was to name the issue: whether to create a quiet reading area during lunch. Step 2 was to hear ideas. Council members took turns suggesting locations and rules, while a recorder wrote each idea on a list. They agreed that a corner near the windows could work, but they also listed concerns about noise and space.
- ③ Step 3 was to discuss the ideas respectfully. Members asked questions and compared the benefits and concerns. Step 4 was to vote. Each council member chose either “create the area” or “do not create it” on a secret paper ballot. Step 5 was to count the votes and announce the result. Nine members voted to create the area, and three voted against it, so the council chose to create it.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What school issue did the council name in Step 1?

2 What did the recorder do during Step 2?

3 Put these actions in order: vote, discuss ideas, count votes.

4 What procedure let council members choose privately, and what was the final result?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose one school issue. Write five numbered steps that name the issue, hear ideas, discuss fairly, vote, and count and announce the results.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each sentence that begins with “Step,” and write 1 through 5 beside them to trace how the council made its decision. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What school issue did the council name in Step 1?	Whether to create a quiet reading area during lunch in the cafeteria.
2	What did the recorder do during Step 2?	The recorder wrote each suggested idea on a list.
3	Put these actions in order: vote, discuss ideas, count votes.	Discuss ideas, vote, count votes.
4	What procedure let council members choose privately, and what was the final result?	They used a secret paper ballot. The vote was nine to three, so the council chose to create the reading area.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

1. Our issue is whether students should have a short outdoor break after lunch. 2. Students share ideas about the break and its rules. 3. The student council discusses benefits, safety, and concerns respectfully. 4. Each council member votes yes or no by secret ballot. 5. Two students count the votes, and the council announces the result.

Accept answers that identify the five procedures in order and use a school issue. For the open response, accept reasonable democratic steps that include hearing ideas, respectful discussion, voting, and reporting the vote result.