

Vote It Yourself

Read how people can make choices by voting themselves.

3.6.c "identifying and explaining direct democracy;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details that show eligible voters make a choice themselves. Circle one detail that explains how representative democracy is different.

Making Choices Together

- ① More than 2,000 years ago, the city of Athens used a way of making some decisions called direct democracy. Eligible citizens met in an assembly. They listened to ideas and voted themselves. The people did not choose a small group to vote for them. Athens did not let everyone vote. Women, children, enslaved people, and many others were left out.
- ② In a direct democracy, people who are allowed to vote make the choice themselves. For example, a club could let every member vote on whether to buy soccer balls or art supplies. Each member's vote helps decide the result. The club is using direct democracy for that choice because the members vote on the question, rather than sending representatives to vote.
- ③ Many places use representative democracy instead. Voters choose representatives, such as city council members, to make many decisions. That is different from direct democracy. In direct democracy, eligible voters decide an issue by voting on it. A fair vote also needs clear choices and a way to count every vote carefully. Direct democracy works best when people can learn about the issue and take part.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 A town's eligible voters meet and vote on whether to build a new playground. Is this direct democracy? Explain why.

2 A county elects five board members. The board members vote on new library hours. Is this direct democracy? Explain why or why not.

3 Which plan uses direct democracy? Plan A: Families elect two parents to choose a park activity. Plan B: Families vote themselves on the park activity. Explain your choice.

4 Why should a direct democracy vote have clear choices and careful vote counting?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose one decision your class could make together. Write three sentences that name the decision, explain who will vote, and tell how the votes will be counted fairly.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two details that show eligible voters make a choice themselves. Circle one detail that explains how representative democracy is different. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	A town's eligible voters meet and vote on whether to build a new playground. Is this direct democracy? Explain why.	Yes. The eligible voters make the decision themselves by voting on the playground.
2	A county elects five board members. The board members vote on new library hours. Is this direct democracy? Explain why or why not.	No. The county chose representatives, and the representatives made the decision.
3	Which plan uses direct democracy? Plan A: Families elect two parents to choose a park activity. Plan B: Families vote themselves on the park activity. Explain your choice.	Plan B. The families vote on the issue themselves instead of choosing representatives to vote.
4	Why should a direct democracy vote have clear choices and careful vote counting?	Clear choices and careful counting help make the vote fair.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our class will vote on whether to have a quiet reading corner. Each student will vote yes or no, so everyone helps make the choice. We will count every vote and use the larger number to decide.

Accept any reasonable class decision that has eligible voters deciding the issue themselves. The response should name who votes and describe a fair way to count the votes.