

Voices at Council

Read how people choose leaders to speak and decide for a community.

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

Imagine your school chooses two student council representatives to help decide which recess equipment to buy. Write exactly two sentences. In the first sentence, tell how the representatives are chosen. In the second sentence, tell one way they should represent students.

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)

Students who are allowed to vote choose two classmates in an election. The representatives listen to students' ideas and share them before the council votes.

Accept answers that explain that people choose representatives to speak and make decisions for them. For the open task, accept a reasonable election method and a representative action such as listening, sharing ideas, asking questions, or voting after considering students' views.