



DIRECT VS. REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY LESSON PLAN

OBJECTIVE: The Steering Committee will understand the importance of voting and be able to distinguish between types of democracy (direct and representative).

SUPPORTING MATERIALS:

- Direct vs. Representative Democracy Survey (below)

TIMELINE: It is recommended to use this lesson plan at the beginning of the Campaign & Vote phase.

APPROXIMATE LESSON LENGTH: 1 Steering Committee meeting

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. SPB Sponsors will share important vocabulary words for this lesson:

- Direct democracy: a form of democracy in which people directly decide on policy and initiatives.
- Representative democracy: a form of democracy in which elected officials, chosen by the public, decide on policy and initiatives.

2. Explain: Soon, the student body will be voting directly on their choice for the project they want to be funded during the SPB Vote Day. Students voting on the SPB Vote Day is a form of direct democracy. Ask students:

- What other forms of direct democracy are you familiar with?
- What other forms of democracy are you familiar with? (e.g., participatory democracy, representative democracy).
 - Remember the vocabulary words we discussed at the start of today's meetings.

3. Divide the steering committee into small groups and distribute the Direct vs. Representative Democracy Survey (below).

- Ask small groups to complete the survey together.

4. Once the small groups have finished the survey, invite students to share their responses with the full group.

DIRECT VS. REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY

NAME _____

DATE _____

Circle which form of democracy fits each situation.

- | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Student Council election: | Direct | Representative |
| 2. School board deciding on new policy: | Direct | Representative |
| 3. Class voting on an activity: | Direct | Representative |
| 4. U.S. President signing a new law: | Direct | Representative |
| 5. State Representatives making a budget: | Direct | Representative |
| 6. Student Council Representatives choosing class trip: | Direct | Representative |
| 7. Students voting on a new school mascot: | Direct | Representative |
| 8. Community voting on location of new park: | Direct | Representative |

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