These students are using the democratic process to vote on a new class rule. The rule that has the most votes wins.

Democracy in Your Classroom

Put democracy to work in your classroom. Create a new rule for your class or school. Make your decisions by following the democratic steps described below.

First, decide on a problem you want to solve. For example, some students want the teacher to set aside a time every day for "free reading" so they can read anything they like. Other students want to change a safety rule that forbids students from riding their bicycles to school. Make suggestions for a topic to your classmates. Support your suggestion with reasons. Take a vote and find out if most students want to move forward with this rule. If not, talk about what changes might make more people agree with you.

Once you decide on a topic, write the rule carefully. Then ask a few classmates if the rule you wrote makes sense. Does it describe enough details, such as who is affected, how, and when?

Once your rule is clearly written, take a vote in your class. Do most people agree with the rule? If not, try to change people's mind with a strong argument or by rewriting parts of the rule. If the class votes in favor of the rule, then it is time to get the approval from your teacher, principal, or other person in charge. Good luck!

Put democracy to work in your classroom! Create a new rule that your class or school can use. Follow this democratic process:

1. What problem in your class or school do you want to solve?

↓

2. Create a rule that helps solve the problem.

↓

3. Vote on your rule with the class. Did most students vote for it?

↓

4. What can you change about the rule so that more people will vote for it?

↓

5. Vote again. If most students vote in favor of the rule, get approval from your teacher or principal.