

DEMOCRACY IS COOL

Performance Standard (14C/14D/14F).C

Design the front and back of a tee shirt that promotes the idea that “democracy is cool” accordingly:

- *Knowledge*: identify the concepts of representative democracy and the common good;
- *Reasoning*: analyze why the ideas are part of representative democracy and common good; and
- *Communication*: design a cut out tee shirt that is well-organized and well-detailed; express all ideas in a way that provides evidence of knowledge and reasoning processes.

Procedures

1. ***In order to understand the development of United States political ideas and traditions (14F), understand election processes and responsibilities of citizens (14C), and understand the roles and influences of individual and interest groups in the political systems of Illinois, the United States, and other nations (14D),*** students should experience sufficient learning opportunities to develop the following:
 - Identify reasons why people have chosen a democracy for their plan of government,
 - Compose a definition for the term “representation”, and
 - Explain what is meant by the idea of “the common good”.
2. Have students review and discuss the assessment task and how the rubric will be used to evaluate their work.
3. Instruct students that a democracy is a government by the people and illustrate the difficulty of having a direct democracy in a country our size. Define the term representative democracy and explain the importance of voting for the people who represent us.
4. Have the students draw a three – column chart and label three of the basic principles of a democracy (every individual person is part of the government, each individual person is equal, and every individual wants freedom).
5. Have students give examples of each principle, and list them on the chart and discuss them with the class. The concept of “common good” should be explained using some of the examples.
6. Give students 11 x 17 drawing paper and have them trace a tee shirt on the paper.
7. Have students write a slogan to illustrate that a “democracy is cool”. This should represent the ideas discussed earlier.
8. Have students design the front and back of the shirt developing the slogan and main themes that were identified on the three column chart.
9. Have students color and cut out the shirt out.
10. Evaluate each student’s work using the Social Science Rubric as follows and add the scores to determine the performance level:
 - *Knowledge*: the identification of the main themes of representative democracy and the common good is complete and accurate.
 - *Reasoning*: the analysis of the examples used on the T shirt is organized to show the connection to the concept of democracy and common good are well-reasoned and logical.
 - *Communication*: the information on the tee shirt is well organize and well-detailed to completely and effectively communicate the knowledge and reasoning.

Examples of Student Work follow

Time Requirements

- Four thirty-minute or three forty-minute periods

Resources

- Chart paper or board space
- Large tee shirt to trace
- 11x17” white drawing paper
- Crayons, markers, colored pencils, or paints
- Scissors
- Social Science Rubric

Every Person

is part of the government

is equal

wants freedom











