

1) MEET

Organise a class meeting to start the process of holding a vote. Ask everyone to agree to follow the democratic values and accept the result of any vote.

- We all agree to follow the democratic values.
- We will all accept the result of the vote.

2) PICK A DECISION TO MAKE

Discuss as a group what decisions need to be made soon in your class (like a new classroom set-up or what topic to learn next) and pick one you will focus on.

Our topic:

3) GET INFORMED

Pick a date and time for the next meeting where you will make a decision. Before the next meeting everyone needs to do some research about why the decision needs to be made and how it might change things in class.

Meeting date and time:

4) SHARE OPINIONS

Time for the next meeting! Give everyone a chance to talk about what they've learned through their research, and then identify the different options for your decision (these will be your options for voting).

If everyone came up with the same option, congratulations! You made your decision without even needing a vote.

Our options:

5) DEBATE

Have one person speak about each voting option, explaining why they think this option is the best one. Give people the chance to ask questions.

6) VOTE

Each person has one vote to choose their favourite option. You can use a simple show of hands or a secret ballot where everyone writes their choice down without including their name.

7) ANNOUNCE

Count up the votes and announce the option that received the most as the winner. Everyone must accept the results of the vote even if their first choice didn't win. This is an important part of the democratic process.

The results:

REFLECTION

Were you happy with the outcome? Why or why not?

Were other people in the class happy with the outcome?
Why or why not?

Think about what happened in Steps 4 and 5. Do you think enough
opinions were heard? How could you make it easier for more
opinions to be shared?

What are the positives of making decisions this way?

What are the negatives of making decisions this way?