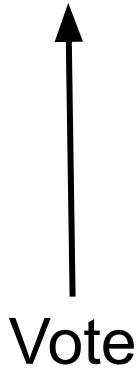


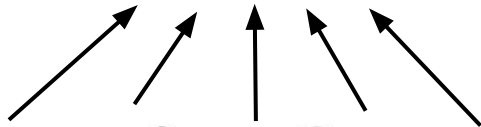
DIRECT

Democracy

Laws/Rules



Vote



REPRESENTATIVE

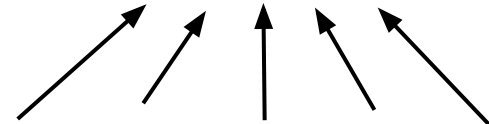
Democracy

Laws/Rules



Elected
Representative

Vote



The People

Reading- Representative Government

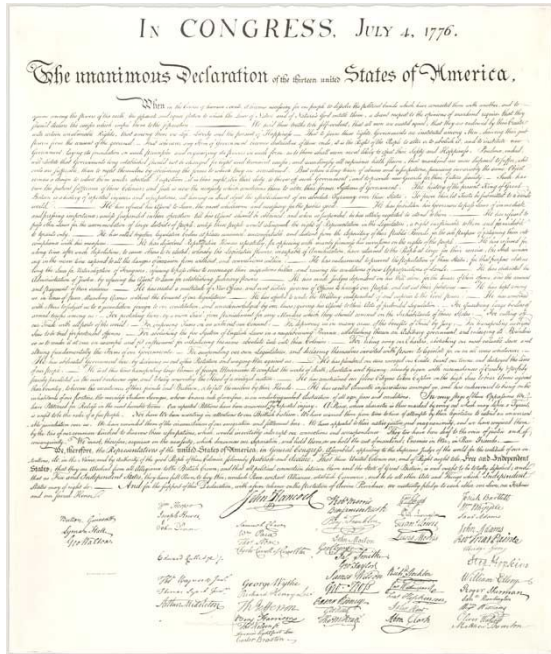
The colonists were fed up with dealing with the King of England. “No taxation without representation!” was a common cry. In the Declaration of Independence, the Founders explained that the purpose of government was to protect the “unalienable rights” of the people. Governments should work with the people of a nation to ensure safety and happiness. So when establishing a new government for the United States, it was important to the Founders that everyone’s voices be heard. But how? With the size of the United States and the population growing in the colonies a direct democracy would be very difficult. They needed a way for all American citizens to be involved in government even if they lived far away from the capital.

In the U.S. Constitution, the Framers established a representative form of government. A representative form of government is when citizens vote for elected officials to make rules, laws, and decisions on their behalf.

From the Declaration of Independence

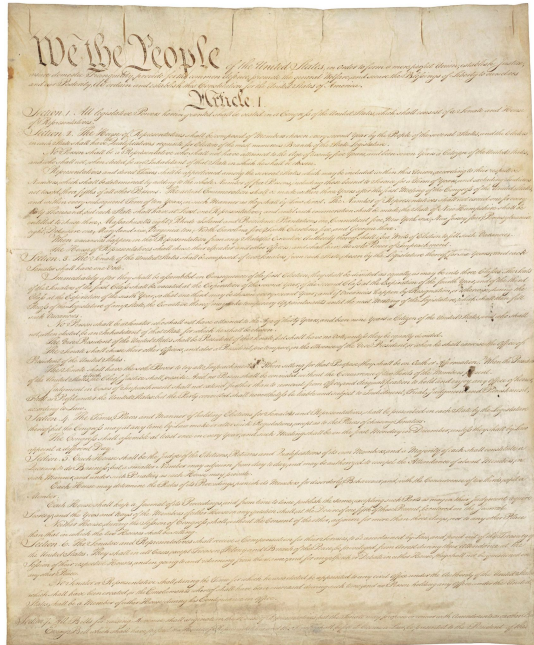
“Consent of the Governed”

- Consent means approval
- “Consent of the Governed” is taken from the Declaration of Independence.
- Colonists felt that their voices were not taken into account when the British Parliament was imposing taxes and laws on them.
- How would this phrase support the idea of a representative government?



From the U.S. Constitution

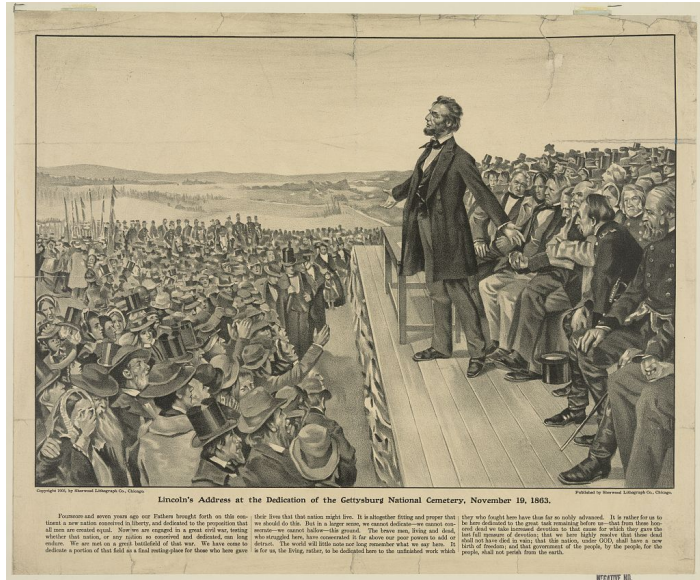
“We the People”



- “We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America”
- This document outlines the structure, function, and power of the United States government provided by the consent of the American people
- How would this phrase support the idea of a representative government?

From The Gettysburg Address

“A government of the people, by the people, and for the people”



- President Lincoln mentions this phrase in his famous speech, “The Gettysburg Address”. This speech was given during the Civil War. President Lincoln wanted all enslaved people to be free and used the promises outlined in the U.S. Constitution.
- How would this phrase support the idea of a representative government?

Representative Government



Sources

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