

Ask and Answer Questions

Before reading an informational text such as “The Democracy Debate,” use the title and any headings to ask yourself questions that will set your purpose for reading. Answering those questions as you read can help you understand the text.



Find Text Evidence

Sometimes the author of an informational text introduces an idea right at the beginning that helps you ask a purpose-setting question. Reread the section “Born and Raised in Greece” on page 109 of “The Democracy Debate.”

page 109

Born and Raised in Greece

Have you ever heard the phrase “government by the people?” That is the meaning of the word *democracy*. The United States is a democratic republic, as are many countries around the world. But where did democracy come from? Some of the earliest ideas about democracy arose in the city of Athens in ancient Greece. But how should democracy be put into practice? The answer to that question has been strongly debated for centuries.

Even when democracy was a new idea, people argued about how it should work. How should power be shared? Should *all* people be allowed to vote and make important decisions? Among the first people to think about these key issues were the ancient Greek philosophers.

democracy. So was one of the **principal** critics of government by the people. He felt that only fair and wise individuals should be allowed to decide things.

The ideas about democracy were dangerous to the leaders in Athens. The leaders did not want to run their city. And so the city’s leaders decided that he would be a teacher. And so they chose students to practice. So they chose

Near the end of the first paragraph, I read the author’s question, But how should democracy be put into practice? I think this is a good question to set my purpose for reading.

Your Turn

COLLABORATE



How did you answer the purpose-setting questions you had before you read the section “Great Minds?” If you could not answer your questions, reread the section.

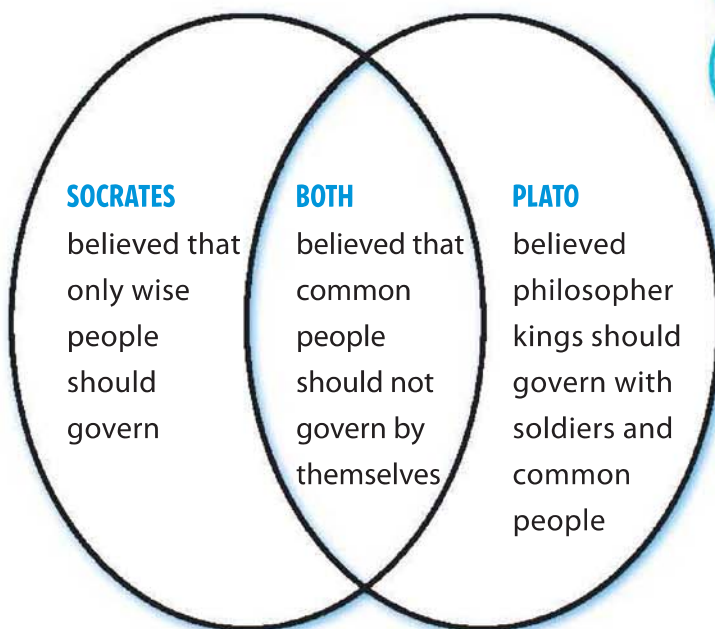
Compare and Contrast

Authors of some informational texts organize their ideas by comparing and contrasting them. A text about history often presents differing views that people had about a topic.



Find Text Evidence

When I reread “The Democracy Debate,” I can look for the ways the author compares and contrasts the ideas that ancient philosophers had about government. Signal words and phrases, such as “unlike” and “agreed with” help me identify how the philosophers’ ideas were the same and how they were different.



The center section shows what both have in common.

Your Turn

COLLABORATE



Reread “The Democracy Debate.” Compare and contrast ideas about government that Plato and Aristotle had. Use the graphic organizer to help you organize the information.

Go Digital!

Use the interactive graphic organizer

Expository

“The Democracy Debate” is an expository text.

An **Expository** text:

- May be about a topic from history
- May include headings, diagrams, and charts



Find Text Evidence

“The Democracy Debate” presents different views held by various thinkers in the past. The diagram on page 110 provides a visual representation of one idea. The chart on page 111 shows information from the text in a simple, organized way.

page 111

Philosopher	Place	Time Period	Idea About Democracy
Socrates	Greece	469–399 B.C.	Only wise and just people should govern.
Plato	Greece	427–347 B.C.	Rule should be shared by philosophers, kings, soldiers, and providers of goods.
Aristotle	Greece	384–322 B.C.	Educated and common people should each have a role in government.
Cicero	Rome	106–43 B.C.	The Roman republic—a monarch, an aristocracy, and the people—is best.

The Debate Continues
The founders of the United States also thought about how a democracy should be organized. They studied governments that had **preceded** ours and believed that the **foundation** of any new government should revisit Greek and Roman ideas. For example, Thomas Paine wrote booklets to **promote** the idea that people should govern themselves. James Madison admired Aristotle’s and Cicero’s beliefs in balancing power among different groups.

In 1787, Madison helped Alexander Hamilton write a set of essays called *The Federalist* to encourage states to ratify the Constitution. They made the case for having a *pair* of law-making groups. The smaller Senate would be similar to Rome’s senate, while the House of Representatives would give more people a voice. They also endorsed having one president and a system of courts to interpret the laws.

Today, people are still debating what the meaning of *democracy* is and how our government should be organized. The U.S. Constitution has been amended more than 25 times to reflect changing ideas. Yet it is important to remember that our government has roots in ideas from ancient times. Democracy has **withstood** the test of time.

Make Connections
Talk about how the philosophers’ ideas influenced our democracy.
ESSENTIAL QUESTION
How does your understanding of democracy compare to the ideas the philosophers had? **TEXT TO SELF**

Text Features

Charts Charts often summarize information and compare related details from the text.

Diagrams Diagrams often illustrate specific ideas from the text.

COLLABORATE



Your Turn

Find and list two text features in “The Democracy Debate.” Tell your partner what information you learned from each of the features.

Greek and Latin Prefixes

Knowing the meanings of common prefixes can help you define unfamiliar words. Below are some prefixes and their meanings.

Prefix	Meaning	Example
<i>en-</i>	"in, into"	<i>enforce</i> → "put in force; make happen"
<i>pro-</i>	"in front"	<i>proclaim</i> → "claim or say in front of"
<i>re-</i>	"back, again"	<i>recall</i> → "call back; think again"



Find Text Evidence

I am not sure of the meaning of the word encourage on page 109 of "The Democracy Debate." If I know that the prefix en- means "in" or "into," I can figure out that encourage means "to put courage into."

And speculation . . . included worries that he would
encourage young students to pick up his radical ideas.

Your Turn

COLLABORATE



Use Greek and Latin prefixes from the list above to help you find the meanings of these words from "The Democracy Debate."

protected (-*tect-* means "cover"), page 110

reflect (-*flect* means "bend"), page 111



Readers to . . .

Writers of expository texts help readers understand a topic by including details that are interesting, important, and informative. They develop a topic with facts, examples, quotations, and other key information. Reread the excerpt from “The Democracy Debate” below.

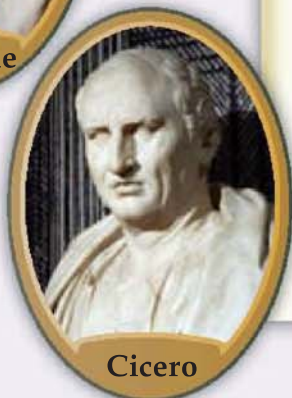
Expert Model

Develop a Topic

Identify the **topic** of the excerpt. How does the writer use **details** to develop the topic?



Aristotle



Cicero

Changes in Rome

About 400 years after Aristotle, the influence of Greek thinking was still felt by philosophers in Rome. Cicero is the best known Roman philosopher. Like Aristotle, he believed a balance of power brought peace and prosperity. That was because different types of people took part in government.

Cicero believed that the Roman republic was the best model for government because it was mixed. It combined features of a monarchy, an aristocracy, and a democracy. Cicero saw that the Roman republic was breaking down, mostly because the aristocracy had gained too much power. In his book, *On the Republic*, he urged a return to a more balanced government.

Writers



Editing Marks

- ^ Insert
- ^, Insert comma
- Insert period
- ✂ Take out
- ≡ Make a capital letter.

Kara wrote an expository text about a voting process. Read Kara's revisions.

Grammar Handbook

Nouns See pages 454-455.

Student Model

Every Vote Counts

Each week on "Rising Star," ^{aspiring} singers

perform before a panel of superstar

judges. The audience then uses ~~s~~ their

computers or phones to vote for their

~~The singer with the fewest votes leaves the show.~~
favorites. ^{As} the show's host says, "If

you say okay, your favorite will stay!"

^{, my favorite singer on the show,}
Last week, Mae Li ^{got} the third-

lowest number of votes. I thought she

might be eliminated, but this week she

got the most votes! I hope she'll be as

successful as last season's winner was.

Your Turn

COLLABORATE



- Identify the details Kara used to develop her topic.
- Tell why she deleted the final "s" in *uses*.
- Tell how revisions improved her writing.

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