

Performance Assessment Task

Democracy or Not...You Be the Judge

Throughout the ages ancient Athens has been called the “birthplace of democracy” and has been envied by those living in different circumstances. You are a citizen of Sparta who belongs to an organization that is attempting to change the type of government that rules Sparta. You have been charged with the task of going to Athens to gather information about Athenian democracy and report back with a recommendation about whether or not Sparta’s government should be replaced with a democracy.

You will gather information to answer this question: **To what extent was the form of democracy practiced in ancient Athens fair and equitable?** Your recommendation will include the following information.

Describe Athenian democracy

- How was the government structured?
- How did the structure of the government give opportunities for people to participate in decision-making?
- How did identity, status and class impact Athenian citizenship?

Develop a position

- To what extent was the form of democracy practiced in ancient Athens fair and equitable?

Support your position

- Provide specific examples from the ways of life in ancient Athens that support your position.

Remember, the information you gather and the recommendation will be carefully considered. You need to be thorough and provide a well-supported recommendation about Athenian democracy.

Rubric: Democracy or Not...You Be the Judge

Student _____

Level Criteria	Excellent	Proficient	Adequate	Limited *	Insufficient / Blank *
Describe Athenian democracy (6.2.3.1, 6.2.3.2, 6.2.3.3, 6.S.2.3)	Provides a comprehensive description of ancient Athenian democracy.	Provides a thorough description of ancient Athenian democracy.	Provides a cursory description of ancient Athenian democracy.	Provides a superficial description of ancient Athenian democracy.	No score is awarded because there is insufficient evidence of student performance based on the requirements of the assessment task.
Develop and support position (6.2.3.5, 6.S.7.4, 6.S.8.2)	Develops a position and uses evidence in a compelling manner to support position.	Develops a position and uses evidence in a credible manner to support position.	Develops a position and uses evidence in a simplistic manner to support position.	Develops a position and uses evidence in an inconclusive manner to support position.	
Communicate information (6.S.8.1)	Communicates information in a persuasive manner to inform and engage the audience.	Communicates information in a convincing manner to inform and engage the audience.	Communicates information in a believable manner to inform and engage the audience.	Communicates information in an unconvincing manner that does little to inform or engage the audience.	

* When work is judged to be limited or insufficient, the teacher makes decisions about appropriate intervention to help the student improve.