

Democratic Processes

The following terms are necessary approaches to building a successful democratic form of government. There will be questions on the AIR Test which will require you to know and recognize these definitions being used in various situations.

PERSUASION: The process of inducing / convincing others to accept your point of view by means of reasoning and effective argumentation.

COMPROMISE: The process of making concessions (meeting the other person “half way”) to settle differences

CONSENSUS BUILDING: The process of working toward achieving general agreement within a group.

NEGOTIATION: The process of settling differences through a discussion of issues.

Situation 1: The Nullification Crisis came to an end with the passage of the Tariff of 1833. Under the Tariff of 1833, South Carolina agreed to enforce federal tariffs and the Federal government agreed to gradually reduce tariff rates that South Carolina had to pay.

Which statement describes how the resolution of the Nullification Crisis represented a compromise between the Federal government and the state of South Carolina?

- a. Each side made concessions toward the other side’s position
- b. Each side requested that a neutral third party help it reach an agreement
- c. Each side worked toward achieving resolution based on shared principles
- d. Each side used reasoning to persuade the other side to agree with its general position

Situation 2: Consensus building as a way of solving conflict is an important tool of a democratic society. Which statement describes consensus building?

- a. Both parties sacrifice something they want in order to solve a conflict
- b. Both parties agree to a series of meetings in order to discuss solutions to a conflict
- c. Both parties try to convince each other that their idea is better in order to resolve a conflict
- d. Both parties search for a common ground or area of mutual agreement in order to solve a conflict

Situation 3: Identify the type of democratic process occurring for each of the following statements:

- 1. Used data to sway an undecided legislator _____
- 2. Removed a line from the bill that was an impediment (obstacle) to a legislator's support. _____
- 3. Emphasized parts of the bill that opposing members agreed upon during earlier debates. _____

Situation 4: A business group wants its city to finance construction of a new airport. The city commissioners and some citizens feel that a new airport will be too expensive and that the proposed site is too close to an old city neighborhood with many low-income residents. The business leaders supporting the new airport can take a number of different approaches to get it built.

Identify all four approaches that represent the democratic process of compromise, consensus building, negotiation, and persuasion.

Circle the number by the four examples of the democratic process taking place.

1. Try to replace the members of the city commission with officials who support the existing plan without changes.
2. Make a concession to their opponents by offering to build the airport in a different location.
3. Hold neighborhood meetings to discuss how to address the concerns residents have about the new airport.
4. Buy homes in the neighborhood to force the residents to move away so that the airport has less opposition.
5. Build the airport as proposed despite opposition.
6. Run commercials explaining how the cost of the airport will be offset by the economic benefits that it will bring
7. Bring people on both sides of the issue together to try to settle their differences through discussion.