

Chapter 2 The State We're In: Washington

The Design of Today's Democracy

Student Launch

1. **Think: Who is in charge in a democracy?**

With a partner, share your thinking. Brainstorm ideas and write down your thoughts below.

-
2. With your partner, read the following quotes with the question from #1 in mind. Choose one quote that strikes you as particularly impactful or important. Circle the words that you think are important and help you answer the question.

"To keep our democracy functioning, citizens must feel free to actively engage with government and stop seeing themselves as spectators in the grandstands. Let's take steps to make the democratic process more vibrant here in Washington state."

Washington Supreme
Court Chief Justice
Mary Fairhurst

"A democracy thrives when its citizens vote, show up for jury duty, engage in public life, are aware of civic issues, listen to other viewpoints, and interact with lawmakers."

Margaret Fisher
Civic Learning Initiative

"It's so important for our students to feel their role as the office of the citizen. How do we get them to feel it? To understand it? It's a never-ending process."

Isidore Starr
Civic Education Pioneer

-
3. In the space below, explain why you think the quote you chose answers the question.

Except where otherwise noted, this work is available under a [Creative Commons Attribution](#) License