

Bertha C. Boschulte Middle School

We Have the Power

Persuasive Essay

Arielle St. Paul

English 07

Ms. Jederon

February 21, 2023

Arielle St. Paul

B.C.B Middle School

Ms. Jederon

English 7

February 21, 2023

We Have the Power

What if I told you, you have the power to choose how you live? According to J.K Rowling, “We are only as strong as we are united, as weak as we are divided.” We learned as children to determine our own fate, destiny, and goals. As a result, democracy is a better form of government in the Virgin Islands because it allows citizens to have their opinions heard, holds public officials responsible and facilitates conflict resolution.

First, as Virgin Islanders, people have the right to be heard and to respectfully express themselves without fear of retaliation. This can be accomplished through spreading the value of civic engagement through social media. Also, social media has made it simpler for politicians to connect with potential voters. Social media can raise awareness of the need to include civic involvement in the classroom because civic education is not taught in schools. Many schools lack the resources necessary to teach about civic rights. According to stthomassource.com, the V.I law will mandate V.I public high schools to require students to take a course on civics that includes the functions of the three branches of government. The legislative branch makes the laws, the executive branch carries out the laws, and the judicial branch evaluates the laws.

Students in middle school, however, ought to have access to the same resources as those in high school. With civic education in our schools, the students and parents can and will participate in democracy.

Secondly, after being elected, public leaders are subject to accountability. This is to guarantee that the pledge they made when running for office is kept. Furthermore, trust is essential because the people of the Virgin Islands should feel secure and at ease knowing that their trust in their leaders will not be betrayed. Nonetheless, Virgin Islanders have the right to remove senators from office in the general elections if they fail to fulfill their campaign commitments. This can be done every two years. They can also remove the governor and the Lieutenant governor from office if they fail to fulfill their promises.

Lastly, democracy can help resolve conflicts. Conflict occurs when people do not get along. This happens because people have different interests, opinions, cultures, religious beliefs, and backgrounds. For example, on April 20, 2022, 100 teachers and nurses within the St. Thomas and St. John district held a protest about the high-risked and unhealthy conditions in the public schools. They also used posters and slogans to draw attention to the leaders and citizens of the Virgin Islands. Although some may believe that democracy is a waste of one's time, the current governor Albert Bryan Junior supported the teachers and nurses' act of democracy and made sure that their voices were heard. This was a great form of democracy.

In conclusion, the great John F. Kennedy said, "Ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country." It is the people of the virgin island who holds the power over legislators and the government. Moreover, democracy is a better form of government because the people's voices can be heard, government officials can be held accountable, and

democracy can help resolve conflicts. So, if you do not want a dictatorship government, make your voices count and vote.

Bibliography

Hope, C. Elan. "Rethinking Civic Engagement." Brennan Center For Justice. 16 Feb. 2022

[Rethinking Civic Engagement | Brennan Center for Justice](#)

Kossler, Bill. "Senate Considering 'Structured Civics Class's Mandate.'" The St. Thomas Source

Virgin Islands. 3 Aug 2016

[Senate Considering 'Structured Civics Class' Mandate | St. Thomas Source](#)

[\(stthomassource.com\)](#)

President John F. Kennedy Inaugural Address "Ask Not What Your Country Can Do For You". *YouTube*, uploaded by Educational Video, 14 Oct. 2009,

www.youtube.com/watch?v=P1PbQIVMp98.

[Three Branches of Government | Harry S. Truman \(trumanlibrary.gov\)](#)

["We are only as strong as we are united, as | The Foundation for a Better Life \(passiton.com\)](#)