

## Democracy is...

# English

Team 1

That everybody has the opportunity to be heard Well being for all Harmony between conservatives and extremists Everybody understanding what their rights and duties are Freedom of expression Fair trade instead of free trade

## Team 2

No authority can dominate others because it implicates everybody. The whole community must make the decisions.

Make our decisions in a realistic way

It is the organization of a complete and egalitarian society, where respect, tolerance, liberty and justice prevail over social conditions, opinions, religion and origens. That is what allows everybody to participate.

#### Team 3

Democracy is equality. It is also the power that belongs to the people. Unfortunately, capitalism plays an important role in democracy but it exists only on paper. In fact, it is not as perfect as it seems. We even ask ourselves if it is a real concept or utopia. It is very complicated. Democracy means liberty but in reality we abuse it. Democracy strengthens human rights.

#### Team 4

Democracy is to have opportunity, in all social aspects: to be able to see each other as human beings each with rights.

#### Team 6

Democracy means social equality and having the freedom to choose our leaders as well as being involved explicitly and implicitly in the action of running the country.

#### Team 7

Democracy means the right to choose and express, anywhere or anytime, your own beliefs, religion, opinions and identity. This includes the freedom to help select and monitor your own government.

#### Team 9

Democracy holds no importance unless personal opinions are heard and respect is held for people's differences. This means more accepting of people's differences and less judging of whom you think someone is.

We need to respect everyone's thoughts and opinions as being equal because everybody has something important to say. Discrimination cannot be tolerated.

#### La Commission des étudiants•The Students Commission



## Team 10

Equality, a government that would let everyone participate and have a voice, possess a leader who would represent everyone. People should be elected, not appointed.

Basic human rights, freedom of speech, the ability to have opposing views without fear of persecution.

The people of the country have the right to make laws themselves and govern the country according to the wishes of the people residing within the country.

People are able to make their own choices and the government is not authoritarian; they don't kill or arrest anyone who is against them.

Democracy should be universal with the majority of people.

Do we have democracy in the Americas? "Partially" "Yes, our elected officials represent us well" "In Colombia, I think there is democracy, but there is space for improvement. We have laws, but little enforcement." "Democracy can be improved throughout the Americas, in some areas, there is some fraud and dictatorship." "The concept of democracy varies by country to country. Some have more democracy than others." "Democracy is partial in the Americas" "There is no democracy when people go in the streets to protest and voice our concerns, and the government uses force and military tactics to fight us off and ignore us."

#### Team 11

True democracy requires that the law be reflected in our daily lives. For example, that not only that minority groups be heard but that all people express their views without fear of repression. In addition, that they have equal opportunities to employment and participation in public issues.

#### Team 12

Democracy can be an exaggeration (5 presidents in 2 years). It is something that is abused. Democracy in the theoretical term is good, but it is rarely used in that term.

#### Team 14

Democracy means the right to freedom of speech, freedom of thought and the right to choose. Democracy is being able to choose the values that guide our lives.