

Democracy On Trial Answer Key

Acceptable key ideas:

- **Strengthened democracy** responses may include:
 - Protects the Constitution as the highest law
 - Prevents the other branches from abusing power
 - Ensures citizens' rights are safeguarded
 - Creates balance by allowing courts to review actions of Congress and the president
- **Weakened democracy** responses may include:
 - Unelected judges gained major power
 - Courts can block decisions made by elected representatives
 - Judicial review was not directly stated in the Constitution, so legitimacy was debated

Any response that includes a valid claim, two pieces of evidence, and reasoning earns full credit.

Teacher's Guide

- Review key terms: judicial review, separation of powers, constitutional authority.
- Provide a short recap of party tensions (Federalists vs. Democratic-Republicans).

Differentiation

- Support: Provide two sentence stems per side (e.g., "Judicial review strengthened democracy because...")
- Challenge: Require a rebuttal to the opposing viewpoint within the paragraph.
- English Learners: Allow graphic organizer planning before writing.

Engagement Ideas

- Hold a short classroom debate after writing paragraphs.
- Use a "vote with your feet" activity - students move to the side representing their stance.
- Allow students to present evidence from contemporary cases for comparison.