

1st Place

5th – 6th Grade

22nd Annual Student Essay Contest | Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum

Democracy is the Best Policy

As the most common type of government in the modern world, democracy influences billions of lives today in every corner of the planet. The idea that all citizens can play a role in changing the prospects of their nations is simple and brilliant. This concept was introduced many years ago by the ancient Greeks, yet it remains one of the most effective forms of government to the present. It survived over two millennia because it provides opportunity and rights for all eligible people. It is a fair and just system by which important decisions are made.

I have spent my entire life in two countries, both of which use democracy in their politics. The country of India is a vast region filled with diversity in traditions and cultures. I had always wondered how a single person could coordinate the activities of more than a billion human beings. How could that person ever be chosen in the first place? Democracy brings a solution to this problem. The people themselves can choose their representatives and government. The people could conduct the necessary actions to deal with their requirements. The power lies with the people.

After moving to the United States of America, I realized how efficient the government was in a different country altogether. Democracy is able to bring peace to the nation, reducing the amount of discrimination present among the citizens. It provides equal rights regardless of race, religion, and sex. The chances of despotism are diminished because the eyes of the people always rest on the government. The authority is not allowed to fall into the hands of a monarch or a few noble oligarchists. It remains distributed evenly among everyone. My experiences have taught me these benefits of democracy.

It is worth noting that education is essential for fair democracy to exist. Uneducated voters may not understand the power they possess, and may unintentionally misuse it in a negative way. They may be tricked or manipulated by other people, without any sense of judgment. As President Franklin D. Roosevelt once said, "The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education."