

The Pursuit of Civil Discourse



The “Direct Democracy or a Representative Republic?” Series

Part II. The Pros & Cons of a Republic

Free Event: October 3, 2026 | 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM CDT

To request giving an 6-minute presentation, write to Ted Wills: president@naeif.org

To register:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_qt3ImwHnTeeeXDJmb6lFGA

Elizabeth Willing Powel asked Benjamin Franklin: "Well, Doctor, what have we got, a republic or a monarchy?" *"A republic, if you can keep it," he replied.*

Round 1: The Indigenous Perspective

1. As an indigenous student living in Canada, what do you believe are the “pros and cons” of a representative republican system of government?

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University Student:

High School Student:

2. As an indigenous student living in Mexico, what do you believe are the “pros and cons” of a representative republican of government?

University Student:

High School Student:

3. As an indigenous student living in the United States, what do you believe are the “pros and cons” of a representative republican system of government?

University Student:

High School Student:

Round 2: The Traditional Historical Perspective

4. As a Canadian student with a traditional historical perspective, what do you believe are the “pros and cons” of a representative republican system of government?

University Student:

High School Student:

5. As a Mexican student with a traditional historical perspective, what do you believe are the “pros and cons” of a representative republican system of government?

University Student:

High School Student:

6. As an American student with a traditional historical perspective, what do you believe are the “pros and cons” of a representative republican system of government?

University Student:

High School Student:

Round 3: The Critical Historical Perspective

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7. As a Canadian student with a critical historical perspective, what do you believe are the “pros and cons” of a representative republican system of government?

University Student:

High School Student:

8. As a Mexican student with a critical historical perspective, what do you believe are the “pros and cons” of a representative republican system of government?

University Student:

High School Student:

9. As an American student with a critical historical perspective, what do you believe are the “pros and cons” of a representative republican system of government?

University Student:

High School Student:

Round 4: A Modern Overview

10. A representative republic beyond elections: Education, Civil Discourse, and Youth Participation in the Age of Artificial Intelligence.

University Student:

High School Student:

SUGGESTED READINGS

“Peace, Power, Righteousness: An Indigenous Manifesto” by Taiaiake Alfred

“Politics, Books III and IV” by Aristotle

“Democracy in America” by Alexis de Tocqueville

“Democracy and Education” by John Dewey

“An Indigenous People’s History of the United States” by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

“When Democracy Breaks” edited by Archon Fong, David Moss, and Odd Arne Westad

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“Rousseau's Counter-Enlightenment: A Republican Critique of the Philosophes” by Graeme Garrard

“The 1619 Project Book” by Nikole Hannah-Jones

“Learning to Disagree” by John Inazu

“On Representative Government” by John Stuart Mill

“Hearing the Other Side: Deliberative versus Participatory Democracy” by Deborah C. Mutz

“Animal Farm” by George Orwell

“The Republic” by Plato

“Democracy’s Discontent: A New Edition for Our Perilous Time” by Michael J. Sandel

“The Creation of the American Republic, 1776 - 1787” by Gordon S. Wood

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