So, What Happens Now?

Everyone wants change. Nobody agrees how. Your move.

Pick a side

1. Start with a shared goal or a detailed plan?
2. Name a fictional school problem different groups could care about.
3. When does a promise become progress?

Get the story

Your group wins a school vote promising to improve daily life. The next morning, the problems remain. Some changes need money, others need permission, and another group disagrees with the plan. Winning gave you a chance to act, not every answer. Leaders face a bigger version of this challenge after elections.

Imagine two neighbours. One is celebrating the election result. The other is worried. They disagree about politics, but they both want better schools and affordable housing. Election night changes who has power. It does not change their daily lives immediately.

A politician may promise lower prices or better services. But after winning, they need money, support and time. The U.S. system is different from Spain's: Americans elect a president separately from Congress, the national parliament. Congress has two parts, the House and the Senate. A president can refuse to approve a proposed law. That is called a veto. Congress can also investigate problems in government. So even when a new law is difficult, politicians can still ask important questions.

The November 2026 election brought a new Democratic governor to Texas. Democrats also won its state House, but Republicans kept the state Senate. That means the parties will need to agree on many laws. Perhaps they could start with a problem that worries families from both sides. An agreement might be slow, but it could also last longer.

Get the story / continued

Nobody wins every election. Fair courts, trustworthy news and the right to criticise a government protect people whether their candidate wins or loses. Ask yourself: Would I support this rule if a politician I strongly disliked were using it?

In Ireland, groups of ordinary citizens study a difficult topic, listen to different opinions and suggest solutions. Politicians make the final decisions. We can use the same idea in everyday life: find a problem, listen carefully and agree on a small first step. Better schools? Safer crossings? More affordable homes? What would people notice if things really improved?

You do not have to agree on everything to make one improvement together. A safer crossing, quieter study space or accessible club can begin with listening. But a useful conversation needs a next step: who does what, by when, and how will you know it helped? Hope becomes more useful when connected to a realistic plan.

Word power

campaign promise - something a politician says they will do

veto - a president's refusal to approve a bill

Congress - the two-part U.S. national legislature

state Senate - one part of a U.S. state legislature

compromise - an agreement where both sides give a little

protect - to keep someone or something safe

criticise - to say why you think something is wrong

evidence - facts that help us decide if an idea is true

Prove it

1. Why is winning an election only the start?

A. A winner can change everything instantly

B. A leader still needs help, money and time

C. People stop discussing politics

2. How is the U.S. president different from Spain's prime minister?

A. The U.S. president is elected separately from Congress

B. The U.S. president leads a Spanish region

C. The U.S. president is selected by Ireland

3. Why will Texas leaders need to cooperate?

A. Texas has no governor

B. Every politician has the same party

C. Different parties control the House and Senate

4. Why test rules using a politician you dislike?

A. To cancel elections

B. To see if the rule is fair to everybody

C. To choose better TV advertisements

5. What happens to suggestions from Ireland's citizens' assemblies?

A. Politicians decide what to do with them

B. They automatically become laws

C. Texas must accept them

Quick mission: Common-ground sprint

Two fictional school groups disagree about a new club. Find one shared goal, one fair compromise and a measurable first step in three minutes.

This or that?

Choose a side. Give a reason. Respond to a different view. Opinions earn points for reasons, not agreement.

1. Start small or wait for perfection?
2. Decide fast or consult more widely?
3. Majority preference or an accessibility need?
4. Compromise or defend the original plan?
5. A popular promise or a measurable goal?
6. Judge intentions or check results?

Watch / notice / question

Use the optional short video linked on your student page, or use the article as a report. Identify a main claim, supporting evidence and an unanswered question.

Student page: https://bilingually-curious.pages.dev/student/teens/what-happens-now/

Have something to say

1. What should a new representative do first?
2. Can stopping a bad decision be progress?
3. Which school problems affect different people?
4. When is compromise fair?
5. When does compromise remove the point of a plan?
6. How can you include people who rarely speak?
7. Should a majority decide every rule?
8. Would you accept a rule if another group used it?
9. What makes consultation useful?
10. When should a small project be judged?
11. What would show that a plan worked?
12. What can you do when a good proposal is rejected?

Make your case

Your fictional youth council has 300 euros. Choose a quiet study space, accessible games afternoon or improvements to a shared outdoor area. Listen to priorities and agree a first step.

Plot twist: The person who most needs the project cannot attend the meeting. Include their views before spending the money.

Final outcome: Present a goal, budget, compromise, person responsible and date to review progress.

Useful language

I would choose ... because ...

One advantage is ..., but ...

I see your point. However, ...

What evidence supports that?

Could we agree on ...?

I used to think ..., but now ...

One more idea

Write a progress card: goal, first step, helpers, how to check and what to change if it fails.

Exit ticket: one useful word, one idea you questioned and one question you still have.

Source links, optional media and the interactive game: https://bilingually-curious.pages.dev/student/teens/what-happens-now/