# 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/

# So, What Happens Now?

Language guidance: approximately B1. Student pages and worksheets do not display a level.

Find common ground, negotiate priorities and propose a measurable first step.

# Flexible route / 60 minutes

1. Pick a side: 5 minutes. Think, pair, share; fictional views welcome.
2. Reading: 12 minutes. Find a benefit, concern and claim to challenge.
3. Word power: 8 minutes. Explain, check, then use a word in a new sentence.
4. Comprehension and optional short media: 8 minutes. Require evidence.
5. Game board and selected discussion: 12 minutes. Award points for supported answers.
6. Make your case and exit ticket: 15 minutes. Add the twist after the first plan.

For 90 minutes, add 10 minutes of discussion, 10 minutes for the creative task and 10 minutes for a second game or peer feedback.

# Support and stretch

Support: silent thinking time, pairs before whole-class talk, six useful phrases and a choice of questions. Stretch: respond to a counterargument, identify an assumption or revise after hearing evidence.

Budgets are fictional. Students may disagree without naming parties. Check whether plans protect people who did not support them; distinguish consultation from binding decisions.

# Answer guidance

1. A leader still needs help, money and time. The reading explains that governing needs support and time.
2. The U.S. president is elected separately from Congress. The systems choose their leaders differently.
3. Different parties control the House and Senate. The Texas state House and Senate are controlled by different parties.
4. To see if the rule is fair to everybody. A fair principle should not depend on who benefits.
5. Politicians decide what to do with them. The recommendations do not automatically become law.

# Source notes

Research checked 12 November 2026. Election results create opportunities, not completed reforms. In Texas, Democrats won the governorship and state House while Republicans retained the state Senate. A regular U.S. presidential veto can be overturned by a two-thirds vote in each chamber, provided a quorum is present. The National Popular Vote compact has 222 of the 270 electoral votes it needs to take effect; it would change how participating states award their electoral votes, not abolish the Electoral College. Ireland's citizens' assembly recommendations are advisory. Keep Spain's political parties optional and avoid requiring learners to disclose their own political views.

U.S. Capitol Visitor Center · How Congress makes laws and overrides a veto

U.S. Senate · The power of congressional investigations

Congressional Research Service · Veto override procedure (January 2026)

CBS Texas · Who controls the legislature after the 2026 election (November 4)

Associated Press · Shifts in state-government control after the midterms

National Conference of State Legislatures · National Popular Vote compact (222/270)

Ireland Citizens' Assembly · How it works and what happens to recommendations

PBS NewsHour · November 4, 2026 election report (6:46; teacher-selected opening excerpt)

Bilingually Curious · Midterms collection

# Game board answer guide

### 1. Explain "campaign promise" without using the word.

something a politician says they will do Accept an accurate paraphrase.

### 2. Explain "veto" without using the word.

a president's refusal to approve a bill Accept an accurate paraphrase.

### 3. Explain "Congress" without using the word.

the two-part U.S. national legislature Accept an accurate paraphrase.

### 4. Explain "state Senate" without using the word.

one part of a U.S. state legislature Accept an accurate paraphrase.

### 5. Explain "compromise" without using the word.

an agreement where both sides give a little Accept an accurate paraphrase.

### 6. Explain "protect" without using the word.

to keep someone or something safe Accept an accurate paraphrase.

### 7. Why is winning an election only the start?

A leader still needs help, money and time. The reading explains that governing needs support and time.

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

The U.S. president is elected separately from Congress. The systems choose their leaders differently.

### 9. Why will Texas leaders need to cooperate?

Different parties control the House and Senate. The Texas state House and Senate are controlled by different parties.

### 10. Why test rules using a politician you dislike?

To see if the rule is fair to everybody. A fair principle should not depend on who benefits.

### 11. Start small or wait for perfection? Give a reason and respond to another view.

Any supported choice. Award points for a clear reason and a relevant response, not for a particular opinion.

### 12. Decide fast or consult more widely? Give a reason and respond to another view.

Any supported choice. Award points for a clear reason and a relevant response, not for a particular opinion.