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| **DEMOCRATIC REFORMS ESSAY ORGANIZER SAMPLE** |

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| **Question:** What reforms will improve democracy in Canada? |

**Evidence/Sources**

The essay must use the evidence from the *articles/sources* provided to support the position. **DO NOT USE ANY OTHER SOURCES FOR EVIDENCE.**

**Use the *Evidence Activity or Inquiry Questions* and following *articles/sources* for evidence for the three reforms selected:**

* Adopt Proportional Representation
* Is a radical reform of the voting system key to healing Britain’s political divisions? (pro reasons/evidence) *- votingcounts.org*
* What is First Past the Post (FPTP)? (con reasons/evidence) *- theweek.co.uk*
* [Fair Vote Canada](https://www.fairvote.ca/a-look-at-the-evidence/) *optional*
* [Protect Democracy](https://protectdemocracy.org/work/proportional-representation-explained/) *optional*
* Lower Voting Age
* Four reasons Canada should lower the voting age - *Simon Deschamps*
* 5 Prominent Pros and Cons of Lowering The Voting Age - *Crystal R. Lombardo*
* Pros and Cons of Lowering the Voting Age - *Breana Noble*
* 8 Pros and Cons of Lowering the Voting Age to 16 - *Monica Hunter-hart*
* [Fair Vote](https://fairvote.org/archives/why_should_we_lower_the_voting_age_to_16/) *optional*
* [Make it 16](https://www.makeit16.org.nz/reasons) *optional*
* Compulsory Voting
* The Pros and Cons of Requiring Citizens to Vote - *fairvote.org*
* 10 Pros and Cons of Compulsory Voting - *flowspsychology.com*
* 10 Mandatory Voting Pros and Cons - *vittana.org*
* [IDEA](https://www.idea.int/data-tools/data/voter-turnout-database/compulsory-voting) *optional*
* [ACE](https://aceproject.org/main/english/es/esc07a.htm) *optional*
* Abolish Senate
* Why the Senate should be abolished - *Macleans*
* Why I now support abolishing the Senate - *Jim Warren*
* [Canadian Parliamentary Review – Time to Consider Abolition of the Senate](http://revparl.ca/english/issue.asp?param=217&art=1554) *optional*
* [Democracy Watch](https://democracywatch.ca/campaigns/shut-down-the-senate-campaign/) *optional*
* Ban Social Media and Elections
* 'Fundamentally dangerous': reversal of social media guardrails could prove disastrous for 2024 elections - *Kari Paul*
* Al and misinformation: what's ahead for social media as the US election looms? - *Rachel Leingang*
* Elections and Disinformation Are Colliding Like Never Before in 2024 - *Stuart A. Thompson*
* Social Media's Influence on Elections - *online.maryville.edu*
* [Freedom House](https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-on-the-net/2019/the-crisis-of-social-media/digital-election-interference) *optional*
* [DW: Does social media influence elections?](https://www.dw.com/en/does-social-media-influence-elections/a-71266950) - Jeannette Cwienk *optional*

**Other Sources:**

* Improving Democracy should be a New Year’s resolution for us all - *Kirk Lapointe*

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| **#1 Reform/Evidence** |
| **Reform:** |
| **Evidence**  **citations** > « quote », paraphrase, According to … **AND**include title, author’s last name and page# of articles/sources |
| * **Senate is dated and no longer useful**   + **While the Senate may have been a good-perhaps even critical idea during the founding of Canada, today it serves no real purpose other than to bring itself into disrepute**   ***Why the Senate should be abolished - Macleans p.1***   * **Senators are not effective or qualified**   + **Rather than a place for sober second thought or regional balance, the upper chamber has become a repository of political cronies, former media personalities and many other depressingly unserious characters**   ***Why the Senate should be abolished - Macleans p.1***   * **Senators are not elected and lack credibility**    + **the Senate’s lack of democratic legitimacy prevents it from pushing back against government initiatives in the name of regional fairness**   ***Why the Senate should be abolished - Macleans p.1***   * **Unelected representatives should not have influence and power**   + **It is not the purpose of an unelected group of people to re-write the government budget bill**   ***Why I now support abolishing the Senate - Warren p.2*** |