

**Democracy 12 Deliberative Democracy in Action Part 2**

Please read the news stories in Canvas about the Irish Citizens' Assembly. After reading the reports, answer the questions below.

1. What was Louise Caldwell's experience at the Irish Citizens' Assembly?
2. What was the result of the Irish Citizens' Assembly? Did it result in any concrete political changes? How does this compare with the deliberative poll we learned about last time? What was the outcome of that group's meeting?
3. Based on the information you read, how successful do you think the Irish process was for the issue of abortion? How did the assembly decide the issue?
4. What other democratic institutions or processes were involved with the Irish case? That is, did the assembly change the law on its own, or did it require actions by other political actors as well? What difference do you think this might have made?
5. How well do you think an American Citizens' Assembly on abortion might go?
6. Does it matter whether deliberation materially affects law or policy? Why or why not?
7. Do you think we should transfer more power and authority to citizens' assembly-type bodies? Should they, for instance, be able to pass laws, perhaps taking the place of one house of Congress? Or they better as a consultative body whose recommendations elected representatives could ignore?