**ESSENTIAL QUESTION:** What are the advantages and disadvantages of various types of governments around the world?

**PROCEDURES:**
- **Day One** - Please read the article titled “Democratic vs. Authoritarian Types of Government”. Then answer the 4 questions that follow in the box labeled “Assignment #1”.
- **Day Two** - Please read the article titled “Specific Types of Government”. Then answer the 3 questions that follow in the box labeled “Assignment #2”
- **Day Three** - Complete the writing question in the box labeled “Assignment #3” using all that you have learned from the first two assignments/days..

**WORK TO BE RETURNED:**
- Assignment #1 - Responses to 4 questions
- Assignment #2 - Responses to 3 questions
- Assignment #3 - Responses to the written response

**RESOURCES:**
- Assignment #1 - [https://www.ushistory.org/gov/13a.asp](https://www.ushistory.org/gov/13a.asp)

**TIME ALLOCATED:**
- Assignment #1 - 15 minutes
- Assignment #2 - 25 minutes
- Assignment #3 - 20 minutes

### Democratic vs. Authoritarian Types of Government
Democracies

Many countries today claim to be democracies, but if the citizens are not involved in government and politics, they are not truly democratic. Some governments are more democratic than others, but countries cannot be considered truly democratic unless they meet certain criteria:

- Freedom of speech, the press, and religion. Democracies in general respect these basic individual liberties. No government allows absolute freedom, but democracies do not heavily censor newspapers and public expression of opinions.

- Majority rule with minority rights. In democracies, people usually accept decisions made by the majority of voters in a free election. However, democracies try to avoid the "tyranny of the majority" by providing ways for minorities of all kinds to have their voices heard as well.

- Varied personal backgrounds of political leaders. Democracies usually leave room for many different types of citizens to compete for leadership positions. In other words, presidents and legislators do not all come from a few elite families, the same part of the country, or the same social class.

- Free, competitive elections. The presence of elections alone is not enough to call a country a democracy. The elections must be fair and competitive, and the government or political leaders cannot control the results. Voters must have real choices among candidates who run for public office.

- Rule by law. Democracies are not controlled by the leaders rules, but are instead governed by laws that apply to leaders and citizens equally.

The degree to which a government fulfills these criteria is the degree to which it can be considered democratic. Examples of such governments include Great Britain, France, Japan, and the United States.

Authoritarian

One ruler or a small group of leaders have the real power in authoritarian political systems. Authoritarian governments may hold elections and they may have contact with their citizens, but citizens do not have any voice in how they are ruled. Authoritarian leaders do not give their subjects free choice. Instead, authoritarian leaders decide what the people can or cannot have. Citizens, then, are subjects who must obey, and not be participants in government decisions. Kings, military leaders, emperors, a small group of aristocrats, dictators, and even presidents or prime ministers may rule authoritarian governments. The leader's title does not automatically indicate a particular type of government.

Authoritarian systems do not allow freedoms of speech, press, and religion, and they do not follow majority rule nor protect minority rights. Their leaders often come from one small group, such as top military officials, or from a small group of aristocratic families. Examples of such regimes include China, Myanmar, Cuba, and Iran.

Assignment #1: Comparing Democratic and Authoritarian Governments

**Directions:** After reading the article answer the questions below.
1. List at least 4 major differences between Authoritarian types of government and Democratic types of government. Make sure your answer includes both sides (authoritarian and democratic).

2. Name 3 countries known for having a democratic type of government.
   1. 
   2. 
   3. 

3. Name 3 countries known for having an authoritarian type of government.
   1. 
   2. 
   3. 

4. Which broad type of government, authoritarian or democratic, sounds more pleasant to live in as a citizen? Explain your answer using complete sentences.

Specific Types of Government

- **Monarchy** is probably the oldest form of government. The main characteristic of a monarchy is that the ruler inherits power. When the ruler dies, power automatically passes to one of the monarch’s children or close relatives. Monarchs-- kings, emperors, or sultans--fulfill their role as supreme ruler by surrounding
themselves with followers and advisors who help them govern. In older forms of monarchy, the king or queen claimed absolute power. Rulers often claimed to hold this power by “divine right,” or the will of God. Ordinary people had no rights or freedoms, except those that the monarch allowed.

- **Dictatorship** is a system of government in which a single person exercises complete power over others. A dictator does not inherit power like a king. The dictator either seizes control by force, or is placed into a position of authority by others. For example, Idi Amin Dada became a brutal military dictator while serving as President of Uganda from 1971 to 1979. Dictators are free to do as they please, while other citizens in a dictatorship have few rights. Ordinary citizens in a dictatorship have very little influence over government policies.

- **Oligarchy** is a form of government in which all power resides with a few people or in a dominant class or group within the society. These groups of people may be distinguished by royalty, wealth, education, or military control. China and Venezuela are just a few of the countries who have had oligarchies in their country’s history.

- **Direct Democracy.** The first known democracy arose in ancient Greece in the fifth century B.C. In fact, the very word democracy is Greek for “people-power.” Citizens of ancient Greece assembled to make important decisions facing their city-state. They voted on these issues directly. Therefore, a direct democracy is a government in which all eligible citizens have direct participation in the decision making of the government.

- **Representative Democracy.** The most common form of democracy is representative democracy, in which citizens exercise their power through elected representatives. The elected representatives propose, develop, and create laws for the citizens to abide by. The most familiar example of democracy is the representative democracy that exists in the United States of America. Americans elect a president and representatives of Congress.

### Assignment #2: Specific Types of Government

**Directions:** After reading about the specific types of government complete the 3 questions described below.

1. Fill out the chart below by defining each type of government and listing countries where it has existed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Government</th>
<th>Definition/Description of Government</th>
<th>Advantage(s) of this type of government (brainstorm,)</th>
<th>Disadvantage(s) of this type of government (brainstorm,)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NONE</strong></td>
<td>Anarchy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ONE</strong></td>
<td>Monarchy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dictatorship</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FEW</strong></td>
<td>Oligarchy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Junta</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ALL</strong></td>
<td>Democracy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Direct</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Representative</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. Based on the reading, describe the main difference between a direct democracy and a representative democracy.

3. Using the reading in Assignment #1 as help, describe the specific features that make the following types of government an authoritarian type of government.
   a. Monarchy-
   b. Dictatorship-
   c. Oligarchy-

Assignment #3

Directions: Use your general knowledge on the topic and what you have learned from the readings and questions in Assignments #1 and #2 to help you complete the question outlined below.

1. Use Assignments #1 and #2 to help please respond to the following writing question in at least 8 sentences.
   If you had the choice to live in an authoritarian type of government or a democratic type of government which would you choose and why? In your answer be sure to include the following:
The reasons why this authoritarian/democratic is the best option as a citizen
The reasons why the other option is a bad choice to live in as a citizen
Details and examples from the readings and your knowledge (potentially do some outside research on countries with the types of government you are discussing)