

Forms of Government Graphic Organizer-Sample Answers

Directions: At each station/placard, use the reading to write a definition for that form of government, as well as list any defining characteristics. Using your understanding, you will then analyze why the Framers of the U.S. Constitution did not choose certain forms when establishing our government.

Form of Government:	Definition/Defining Characteristics:	Why Not This One?
Autocracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One person exercises all power Dictatorships Absolute monarchy Controls all branches of government power Strict obedience to government/state No personal freedoms and individual rights No free and fair elections 	<p>NO checks and balances, consent of the governed, due process of law, individual rights, representative government, rule of law, or separation of powers.</p> <p>No safeguards to protect liberty and freedom</p> <p>Power all concentrated and unlimited</p>
Monarchy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Power is held by a single person whose right to rule is based on being born into a royal family On the throne for life Absolute: unlimited power Constitutional: limited; more republic; king/queen is symbolic Head of state decided by birthright 	<p>Absolute Monarchy: Same answers as autocracy</p> <p>Constitutional Monarchy: Head of state is not elected by the people but born into the position.</p> <p>Potential for king/queen to consolidate power</p>
Oligarchy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small group of powerful wealthy people have power Elected, born, or have wealth to gain power No free and fair elections No check on power of oligarchs Have been beneficial and harmful 	<p>Limited to no checks and balances, consent of the governed, due process of law, individual rights, representative government, rule of law, or separation of powers.</p> <p>Limited to no safeguards to protect liberty and freedom</p> <p>Power too concentrated and unlimited</p>

Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People hold power • Government authority comes from the people • People elect representatives to make decisions and pass laws on their behalf • Other versions/names: representative democracy, indirect democracy, constitutional republic • Roots in ancient Rome 	
Democracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rule by the people • Direct = power is directly in hands of people and not elected representatives • Indirect = people elect representatives to make decisions on their behalf • Direct democracies require eligible citizens to propose, consider, vote on, and pass laws directly • Roots in ancient Greece 	<p><i>*Note: For this box, stay specific to direct democracy</i></p> <p>Direct Democracy: Difficult to have everyone represent themselves and vote on every issue-can get nothing else done; Especially difficult given the size of the U.S.</p>
Theocracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religious authorities rule in the name of a god or deity • Rulers are chosen by a higher power • Laws and decisions are based on religious beliefs • Only state religion can be practiced • Religious texts inspire decisions • No separation of powers; checks and balances • No elections • Limited personal freedoms 	<p>Limited to no checks and balances, consent of the governed, due process of law, individual rights, representative government, rule of law, or separation of powers.</p> <p>Limited to no safeguards to protect liberty and freedom</p> <p>Power too concentrated and unlimited</p>

U.S. Constitutional Republic; Democracy; Constitutional Monarchy

Oligarchy; Theocracy; Absolute Monarchy; Autocracy
Authoritarian/Totalitarian

