

# Autocracy/Authoritarianism & Democracy

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Hand in when completed.

Instructions: **Identify whether the situation describes autocracy or democracy**

1. You and your friends are students at university. You have decided to organize a protest calling for the release of prisoners of conscience, arrested the year before for criticizing the government's policies. During the peaceful public protest the government sends in the army with tanks to break up the demonstration and to arrest your group. \_\_\_\_\_

2. People are complaining about a river that has begun to swell in size. They circulate a petition demanding that the government build a barrier wall. \_\_\_\_\_

3. In Saudi Arabia the royal family (male descendents of King Abdul Aziz) has a presence at all levels of government. The king is also the prime minister.  
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4. You gather a group of people together to protest the fact that the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer. The police show up in riot gear, but allow the protest to continue. \_\_\_\_\_

5. You go to the central park in the city, stand on a park bench and begin to criticize the government for refusing to allow a new church to be built in the city. A crowd gathers, listens to you and claps. After your speech you go on your way home. Before arriving home, two men approach you, pull you into an alley, and threaten to hurt you and your family if you ever try such a thing again. \_\_\_\_\_

6. You learn that there is an election. You arrive at the polling station and are told that you can vote in secret, or vote out in the open. Police are standing around. You decide to vote out in the open. You go to cast your vote and notice that there is only one name on the ballot. \_\_\_\_\_

7. As you walk through the streets of the village, you see the people go down on one knee and welcome you. Some of them throw flowers at your feet. You decide not to raise taxes on their farm produce.  
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8. In an attempt to stop the civil unrest and bloodshed, President Bashar Assad has ordered a vote on a new constitution that would create a multiparty system in Syria (a country ruled by a family dynasty for 40 years).  
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9. A group of students complain that they are not allowed to gather together after curfew. They protest before the city hall. All of them are arrested and jailed after being clubbed by members of the army.  
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