



## TYPES OF GOVERNMENT

(30 minutes)

### OBJECTIVE

Students understand what democracy is within the context of other forms of government and discuss how a citizen's liberties and responsibilities may differ in different types of government.

### MATERIALS

*Types of Government* handout

### GET READY

- ✓ Make a copy of the *Types Of Government* handout for each of your students.

### INSTRUCTIONS

- ✓ Inform your class that they will be evaluating several forms of government to gain a better understanding of democracy.
- ✓ Review with your students the following forms of government: monarchy, theocracy, communism, dictatorship, and democracy.
- ✓ In explaining the various forms of government, use the classroom as an analogy. For example: *If our classroom was its own country and we were a dictatorship, I might be the dictator. I would have complete control without input from any of you, the citizens.*
- ✓ Distribute the *Types Of Government* handout to your students. Tell your students that they are going to use this handout to reflect on advantages and disadvantages of the forms of government they just learned about.
- ✓ Divide your students into groups of three or four. Have them review with each other the definitions of the different forms of government. Next, have them complete the handouts.

- ✓ Have the group members share with one another their responses to the handout questions.
- ✓ As a class, review the handout and allow students to share their responses.
- ✓ To conclude the activity, have your students write a paragraph/essay on one of the types of government you reviewed: monarchy, theocracy, communism, dictatorship, or democracy. Students should identify a country that has this form of government and explain how that government affects the lives of its people.
- ✓ Have your students share their assignments in class the next day.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ★ *Define the different types of government we discussed. What are the advantages and disadvantages of each?*
- ★ *What do you think is the purpose of government? Do you think democracy accomplishes this? Explain why or why not you think so?*
- ★ *Has this activity helped you realize anything about your own country and how it operates? Please specify.*

### SUGGESTED ASSESSMENT:

- ★ *Students can complete the Types of Government handout.*

