**Democracy or Dictatorship: What is the Difference?**

Student Worksheet

1. List the four main characteristics of a nation-state.

a.

b.

c.

d.

1. The two basic forms of government we are examining today are democracy and dictatorship. What are the Wikipedia definitions of these political concepts?
	1. Democracy
	2. Dictatorship
2. Okay: you should know these! These are the three key questions to ask about any form of government. Commit these three key questions to memory.
	1. ***Who can participate in the processes of government?***
	2. ***How is political power divided within a country?***
	3. ***What is the relationship between the legislative and executive branches of the government?***
3. Aside from democracies and dictatorships, there are six other main forms of government in terms of political participation. They are monarchies, oligarchies, autocracies, authoritarian systems, totalitarian systems, and theocracies. By the end of class today, you should have a brief definition of each type of government.
	1. Monarchy
	2. Oligarchy
	3. Autocracy
	4. Authoritarian
	5. Totalitarian
	6. Theocracy
4. Here are a few questions for further investigation. Answer these in class today, based on the information you pick up during the class period. If you do not finish, please complete these questions for homework.
	1. Why are some governments democratic and others dictatorial?
	2. Are some types of dictatorships more severe than others?
	3. What characteristics of a country might make a transition to democracy more difficult?
	4. Are some countries better off with a dictatorship?
	5. If you were reading about a country to determine whether it had a dictatorial or a democratic government, what characteristics or clues would you look for in making your determination?

Knowing what you know now about classifying governments, how would you properly classify the government you researched last week? Explain