

A DIRECT DEMOCRACY OR A REPUBLIC?

***A PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT WHERE STUDENTS EVALUATE
WHICH IS A DIRECT DEMOCRACY AND WHICH IS A REPUBLIC!***

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Instructions:

1.) This activity is a short assessment to determine a student's understanding of the difference between a direct democracy and a republic. The first source is from the United States Constitution and the second is from a source called "The Polity of the Athenians."

2.) The source information has been left on the first source in case you did not want to give students any clues. The second source includes the source information.

3.) Have students work individually to answer the two source questions. A key is included!

4.) Enjoy!

Directions: The following sources address two different types of government, a direct democracy and a republic. Read the two sources below and answer the questions to show your understanding of these two types of government.

Source #1:

Section 1:

All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Section 2:

The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty Thousand, but each State shall have at Least one Representative.

Source #2:

...This type of constitution is one that I do not approve of, for it chooses that thieves should fare better than the elite. First of all, the poor and the commons seem justly to have the advantage over the well-born and the wealthy. Here, it seems that all have a share in offices filled by lot or by election, and that any citizen who wishes should be allowed to speak. I ask, what benefit will it bring our state to allow the poor and commons to play such as crucial role in managing our state?

Directions: The following sources address two different types of government, a direct democracy and a republic. Read the two sources below and answer the questions to show your understanding of these two types of government.

Source #1:

Article I of the United States Constitution:

Section 1:

All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Section 2:

The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty Thousand, but each State shall have at Least one Representative.

THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION, 1789

Source #2:

...This type of constitution is one that I do not approve of, for it chooses that thieves should fare better than the elite. First of all, the poor and the commons seem justly to have the advantage over the well-born and the wealthy. Here, it seems that all have a share in offices filled by lot or by election, and that any citizen who wishes should be allowed to speak. I ask, what benefit will it bring our state to allow the poor and commons to play such as crucial role in managing our state?

THE POLITY OF THE ATHENIANS, 424 BCE

Name _____ Period _____

- 1.) Which type of government, a direct democracy or a republic, is **Source #1** describing? Provide at least one piece of evidence to support your claim.

[illegible]

- 2.) Which type of government, a direct democracy or a republic, is **Source #2** describing? Provide at least one piece of evidence to support your claim.

[illegible]

KEY

Name _____ Period _____

- 1.) Which type of government, a direct democracy or a republic, is **Source #1** describing? Provide at least one piece of evidence to support your claim.

Source #1 is describing a republic since it involves people being represented by elected officials. In the U.S. government, the people are represented in the House of Representatives (and the Senate, Presidency, etc.) by elected officials, which shows a republic.

- 2.) Which type of government, a direct democracy or a republic, is **Source #2** describing? Provide at least one piece of evidence to support your claim.

Source #2 is showing a direct democracy since it talks about poor citizens receiving equal say as the elite and everyone receiving a voice. In Athens, all citizens participated in government.