

Comparing Forms and Systems of Government

Directions: Your Guided Notes are a tool to use as you read your lesson pages in the course. These important notes will help guide your note-taking throughout the course. You do not need to submit your Guided Notes for grading.

Key Vocabulary

| Word | Meaning (use context clues) |
|-------------|-----------------------------|
| Congress | |
| Amendment | |
| Term limits | |
| Federalism | |

Government Forms

A form of government describes the role that people play in making decisions about their government. Complete this chart for the **forms** of government. Some information appears to help you begin.

Hint: Be sure to watch the Types of Government video.

| Government Form | How It Works |
|--------------------|---|
| Democracy | |
| Direct democracy | Everyone has the opportunity to vote on major decisions. This is best for small groups, and only works if everyone agrees to accept the decision with the most votes. |
| Indirect Democracy | |
| Oligarchy | |

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Autocracy | |
| Monarchy | |
| Absolute Monarchy | |
| Constitutional Monarchy | |
| Dictatorship | |

What is socialism?

What is communism?

How is the United States both a representative democracy and a constitutional republic?

Government Systems

A government system refers to the rules that control how the government operates. It organizes how political divisions, such as states, are managed. Complete this chart for the **systems** of government. Some information appears to help you begin.

Hint: Be sure to watch the Systems of Government video.

| System of Government | How It Works |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Unitary | |
| Confederation | |

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| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Federation | |
| Parliamentary | The legislative branch has control over the executive branch. Legislators choose the leader of the executive branch. This person usually has the title "prime minister." |

Comparing Forms and Systems of Government

Complete this chart for the comparing **forms** and **systems** of government. Some information appears to help you begin.

| Form or System | Advantages | Disadvantages |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| Representative democracy | Citizens have an active role in making decisions. Leaders are held accountable by voters. | It can be difficult to get the majority of elected leaders to agree on decisions. |
| Oligarchy | | |
| Autocracy | | |
| Unitary | | |
| Federation | | |
| Confederation | | |

Choose two forms or systems of government. What are the similarities and differences between the two?

