**Sixth Grade Social Studies Historical Videos: Government Types**

**Introduction:** When discussing types of government, many teachers may simply describe the characteristics of that type of government. Although this can be helpful, even more beneficial for students could be to show real, historical videos of the speeches of famous rulers of various types of government. In doing so, students will make connections between the charisma of the ruler and the characteristics of their government. Students will also recognize the power that a ruler’s ability to speak well can have on its citizens.

**Standard:** Ohio Model Curriculum Content Statement 10: Government- Governments can be categorized as monarchies, theocracies, dictatorships or democracies, but categories may overlap and labels may not accurately represent how governments function. The extent of citizens’ liberties and responsibilities varies according to limits on governmental authority.

**Students will be able to:**

* Identify the characteristics of a dictatorship, democracy, and monarchy.
* Recognize the uniqueness of a dictator, monarch, or ruler of a democracy and how they represent their type of government.
* Discuss the core questions respectively with classmates.

**Procedures:**

* Give students background knowledge on qualities of a dictatorship, a democracy, and a monarchy.
  + **Dictatorship:** A dictator takes complete political power in himself. There are no effective laws. The goal of the dictator is to completely take over power and control. “The totalitarian dictatorship, as in Nazi Germany, Communist China, and the former USSR, is much more thoroughgoing. It seeks to control all aspects of national life, including the beliefs and attitudes of its people. It has a set of ideas that everyone is expected to embrace, such as revolutionary Marxism or counterrevolutionary fascism. So, the people in power in a dictatorship are completely in control. The public has no power.
  + **Democracy:** In a democracy, there is a constitution that provides for actual laws. So, it must be enforced. Also, citizens are free to organize competitive political parties with political campaigns and elections. Democracies usually vary a bit in structure. There is the parliamentary and the presidential. Parliamentary governments are like Australia, Britain, Canada or India. Presidential governments like France and the United States. In parliamentary governments there is a prime minister or premier and there are cabinet members that are part of the parliament. They continue in office until the parliament has confidence it heir policies. In the presidential form, voters elect the chief executive whose actions are controlled by legal restraints and the constitution. So, the people in power in a democracy are controlled by the regulations of the Constitution and regulated by the legal restraints, voters, and checks and balances.
  + **Monarchy:** A monarchy is a rule by a hereditary king or queen. There is the absolute monarch, which is basically when the kings believed that God had given them the right to rule. They did this in order to limit the pope’s power. A limited monarchy is the second stage of monarchy. This is basically when kings depended on support of the members of nobility to keep their thrones. The third stage of monarchy is the constitutional monarchy, which is modern day. This basically means that the kings and queens are more of a symbolic figure rather than an actual ruler of the county. So, depending on the stage of monarchy, there are different levels of power. In the absolute monarch, the king or queen had absolute power, and the people had none. In the limited monarchy, the king and queen had most of the power, but relied on nobility to keep their throne. In the constitutional government, the king or queen does not have much power and the people have much more power.
* Pass out comparison table (attached). Explain to students that they will watch three videos and should jot down some characteristics of the speaker while watching.
* Provide background knowledge on video 1.
  + Adolf Hitler- Speech at the Berlin Sportspalast (January 30, 1940).
* Show video 1.
  + <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gS-nQgLehpE>
* Provide background knowledge on video 2.
  + John F. Kennedy- Kennedy Moon Speech at Rice Stadium (September 12, 1962).
* Show video 2.
  + <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FYb_mhiE-qU>
* Provide background knowledge on video 3.
  + Princess Diana- Charity speech at Centrepoint about homelessness (July 12, 1995).
* Show video 3.
  + <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TlMb6sTa2Uw&feature=results_video&playnext=1&list=PLA0FC983E91B34834>
* Open it up to full classroom discussion.

**Core discussion questions:**

* What characteristics did Hitler’s speech have that showed he was a dictator?
* What characteristics did Kennedy’s speech have that showed he was the president of a democracy?
* What characteristics did Princess Diana’s speech have that showed she was part of a constitutional monarchy?
* How important is a ruler’s ability to speak well to the public?
* How powerful can a ruler’s charisma be to its people and their actions?
* If Hitler had been a poor public speaker, would he have been as effective at winning over the public’s opinions?

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

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| **Adolf Hitler (dictator)** | **John F. Kennedy (democracy)** | **Princess Diana (Monarch)** |
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