

Exercise 7.2. – My feelings about dictatorship

Educational objectives	The students can define and judge elements of democracy and dictatorship. The students can make a deliberate choice of values and argue for them.
Resources	Poster and markers or blackboard and chalk.

Procedure

1. The students are asked to define the characteristic traits of dictatorship.

The list might contain points such as the following:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – anti-Semitism – ethnic cleansing – torture – conditioning – the cult of power, individuals or the military – view of criticism as destructive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the role of women as reproducers – repression of sexual minorities – submission to authority – pressure from peers to conform – the demand to be led – rejection of minorities
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2. Referring to the list, the students try to answer the question, “To what extent does this situation affect me?”
3. The students are asked to place these items on a scale, starting with the trait they feel strongest about.

Extension and variation

The features of dictatorship can be related to examples from news reports, films or textbooks.

The same exercise could be done on democracy.