

Definition Essay: Democracy

Read the following quotations:

“There are two things which a democratic people will always find very difficult –
to begin a war and to end it.”
Alexis de Tocqueville (French Historian and Political Scientist, 1805-1859)

“Democracy... while it lasts is more bloody than either [aristocracy or monarchy].
Remember, democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes, exhausts, and murders itself. There
is never a democracy that did not commit suicide.”
John Adams (Second President of the United States)

“As I would not be a slave, so I would not be a master. This expresses my idea of
democracy.”
Abraham Lincoln (Sixteenth President of the United States)

“Democracy is a device that ensures we shall be governed no better than we deserve.”
George Bernard Shaw (Irish Playwright and Essayist, 1856-1950)

Write an essay in which you define the word *Democracy*.

- **Basic Requirements:**
 - Introduction paragraph with thesis statement (HINT: This thesis statement will propose your definition of the word Democracy.)
 - 2-3 body paragraphs that correlate with your thesis statement and support your definition
 - A concluding paragraph that reminds me of your key points and effectively argues your definition

- As you write your essay, you must:
 - Focus on defining the concept of Democracy.
 - Effectively organize your ideas using the provided graphic organizer. (A five-paragraph essay is not necessary; however, you do need a definite introduction, body and conclusion.)
 - Include supporting evidence from our studies of Colonial America and the American Revolution. (This requirement is mandatory and must be fulfilled to earn an A.)
 - Include ideas from any of the following sources:
 - The dictionary and or personal definition
 - Synonyms and antonyms (compare/contrast)
 - An anecdote
 - Any ideas stimulated by the above quotations
 - Other historical evidence
 - Evidence from relevant literary works (Golding’s *Lord of the Flies* or Orwell’s *Animal Farm*, for example)
 - Include ample and appropriate details.
 - Edit your essay for standard grammar and language usage.

- **PROOFREAD, PROOFREAD, and PROOFREAD!**

