“Who has the Remote Control?”

Our task today is to discuss different types of government. You will exercise your critical thinking skills as you analyze the following scenarios. Think about each one and determine which type of government it describes. In the space provided, write the correct type of government. First, here are the definitions according to your textbook’s glossary.

Types of Government:

Absolute Monarchy: a system of government in which a king or queen has unlimited power. Typically power is gained through bloodline.

Dictatorship: a government in which power is in the hands of a single person who seeks to control all aspects of society. Typically power is gained through force.

Constitutional (limited) Monarchy: a system of government in which the ruler’s power is limited by law.

Aristocracy: A government in which power is in the hands of the hereditary ruling class or nobility.

Direct Democracy-a government in which citizens/people rule directly.

Republic- a government in which power is in the hands of representatives and leaders who were elected by the citizen/people.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Cathy Smithson’s family is very close. Every year, they take a vacation together, to a destination chosen by Cathy’s mom. Last summer they went to the Guano Caves of North Dakota, home of the country’s largest colony of bats. Cathy and her sisters have begged for a better destination for this year, but Mrs. Smithson never wavers. She always has complete power to choose their vacation spot.

2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Henry Hooptie lives with his extended family (mom, four brothers and two sisters, three aunts, two uncles, seven cousins, and two grandparents). It is a great dilemma for an American family that they have only one television. As you might guess, this creates heated arguments over what to watch each night. The Hoopties developed a fair system to make their show. Each generation of Hoopties gets one vote to pick the show. There is a representative from each generation (kids’, parents’ and grandparents’) who meets with family members of the same age to discuss their selections. The “Cable Cabal”, with three members, then votes on what show to watch. This is how the Hoopties watch “Matlock” one night and “American Idol” another.

3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Fleetie McHoncho’s dad is a fabulous cook. Every night there is a new gourmet dish, perfectly prepared. Fleetie loves the food, but is frustrated because he never has any say in what’s for dinner. In fact, Mr. Mchoncho makes all decisions about meals. Finally the family decides to set some rules about what Mr. Mchoncho can make. The family came up with a long list of meals that would at least somewhat please people. Mr. Mchoncho still gets to decide what he wants to make and when, it just has to be from the approved list.

4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Esmerelda Eventura is an only child. When her family wants to decide what to watch, each person (dad, mom, Esmerelda) gets one vote. Usually Esmerelda and dad create a coalition and pick whatever’s on HGTV.

5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_The Trideckos live next door to the Hoopties, and also live as a large extended family. This family thought about how to make decisions, and decided they wanted to be sure that everyone who had a vote was responsible. Therefore, they created a council to choose televisions shows. To be on this council, you had to have at least $1,000 in the bank. This eliminated all kids (except Timmy, who mows lawns) from choosing shows. No “American Idol” in this house.

6. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ There is one type of government left, write a scenario that would represent that type of government:

Follow-Up: answer these questions on page 18 of your notebook.

1. Think about how decisions are made in your home. Which of these government systems is most similar to your family? Explain. (40 words minimum)
2. Which of these systems of government do you think is the most fair? Explain. (40 words minimum)
3. Consider the type of government you believe is the most similar to your family(from question 1).

* Create a visual metaphor that illustrates/shows how much input/power the people have in that type of government. It must be possible to illustrate your metaphor!
* Draw your metaphor and explain it in 50 words. (An example [which you many not use] of a suitable metaphor would be a puppet show. The puppets represent the family/people who don’t have any power, and puppeteers represents one person [like a king or dictator] who control the people/government)

\* If you are crammed for space there is a bit above