

American Government & Politics: A Christian Worldview:
Save the Nation! Government Mix-Up Game (15–20 minutes)

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS/KEY

Teacher Overview

This game helps students understand why America’s founders mixed different types of government together instead of choosing only one system. Students quickly discover that every government strength can also create new problems.

Students are NOT trying to build a perfect government. They are trying to survive crises without creating tyranny, corruption, or chaos.

Goal

Students discover the strengths and weaknesses of monarchy, aristocracy, and democracy/republic systems.

Instructions

1. Divide students into groups of 3–5.
2. Give each group the three handouts.
3. Tell students they must build a government that can survive several national crises.
4. Groups must choose **one** monarchy feature, **one** aristocracy feature, and **one** democracy/republic feature.
5. Say something like: “You are NOT trying to build a perfect government. Every government strength might also become dangerous later. Your goal is to survive crises without creating tyranny, corruption, or chaos.”
6. Give groups 2–3 minutes to choose their three government features and write them on the answer sheet.
7. Now tell the groups to flip their sheets over to read the crises and
8. Read all crises aloud, and tell the groups to go to it! Groups discuss which features help and which become dangerous. Tell the groups they have 10 minutes to decide for all the crises.
9. Ask groups to share (a) some of what they chose as features and why, and (b) what they put for some answers to solving the crises.
10. Discuss the debrief questions together.

Simple Example

Suppose a group chooses:

- One leader commands the military.
- A small, expert senate reviews laws.
- Citizens elect lawmakers.

During a foreign invasion, strong leadership might help. But later, that same strong leader might refuse to leave office. Students discover that every system creates both strengths and dangers.

Crises

1. **Crisis #1 – Foreign Attack:** Enemy ships are approaching your coast. What government feature helps most? What government feature might become dangerous?
2. **Crisis #3 – Angry Crowds:** Huge crowds demand free money and threaten riots if refused. What government feature helps most? What government feature might become dangerous?

3. **Crisis #4 – Leader Won’t Leave Office:** Your ruler refuses to step down after losing support. What government feature helps most? What government feature might become dangerous?
4. **Crisis #5 – Endless Arguments:** Lawmakers argue constantly and cannot pass laws. What government feature helps most? What government feature might become dangerous?

Debrief Questions

- Why might a strong ruler help during emergencies?
- Why can powerful rulers become dangerous?
- Why might democracy become chaotic sometimes?
- Why did America’s founders mix systems together instead of choosing only one?
- Which parts of the U.S. government resemble monarchy, aristocracy, and democracy?

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Government Group Choices

Choose ONE Monarchy Feature:

- ☐ One leader can act quickly during emergencies.
- ☐ One leader commands the military.
- ☐ One leader can veto laws.
- ☐ Government meetings may be secret during emergencies.

Choose ONE Aristocracy Feature

- ☐ A small expert senate reviews laws.
- ☐ Leaders serve long terms in office.
- ☐ Wealthy/business leaders approve taxes.
- ☐ Experienced judges can block bad laws.

Choose ONE Democracy/Republic Feature

- ☐ Citizens elect lawmakers.
- ☐ Frequent elections keep leaders accountable.
- ☐ Each region elects local representatives.
- ☐ Laws must be debated publicly.

Don't flip this sheet over until your instructor tells you to!

Crisis #1 – Foreign Attack

Enemy ships are approaching your coast.

What government feature that your group chose helps most?

What feature might become dangerous, and why?



Crisis #2 – Angry Crowds

Huge crowds demand free money and threaten riots if refused.

What government feature helps most?

What government feature might become dangerous, and why?



Crisis #3 – Leader Won't Leave Office

Your ruler refuses to step down after losing support.

What government feature helps most?

What government feature might become dangerous, and why?

Crisis #4 – Endless Arguments

Lawmakers argue constantly and cannot pass laws.

What government feature helps most?

What government feature might become dangerous, and why?
