



YOU may have also heard of the word '**autocracy**'. Autocracy is a totally different idea from **democracy**. It is quite the **opposite** of it! These two concepts may sound a bit **abstract**, but they may indeed be observed in many daily life situations. Take a school project as an example. Have you ever **come across** the following situations?



What happens in an autocracy...

- One person has all the power and rules over other people.

Call me boss!

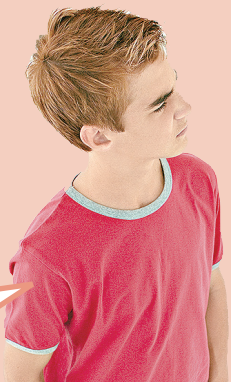


- He/She rarely listens to what others think.

No! No! I won't listen!

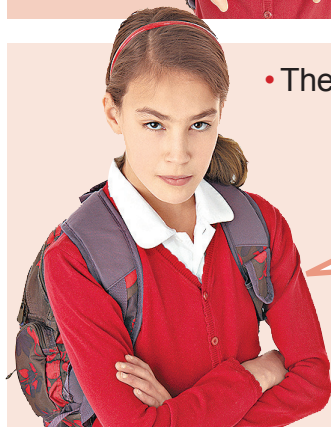


We think that...



- The 'ruler' makes all decisions alone.

No detective stories. No Harry Potter. We will do *Beauty and the Beast*. I'll be the beauty and you will be the beast. No objections!



- Because he/she refuses to listen, the 'ruler' may make decisions that are bad for the people.

I don't want to be the beast at all...



What happens in a democracy...

- Everyone is equal.



- Everyone can tell others what they think.

We need to perform a short drama for the English project. Let's decide what story to work on. What do you think?

Shall we choose a detective story?

What about a scene from the Harry Potter series?

- People make decisions together.

Let's have a vote! Who prefers Shakespeare?



- The decision is made fairly, and it **strikes a balance** between everyone's interests.

Could I be Harry?

Great! Let's play a scene from the Harry Potter stories!

Me for Hermione!



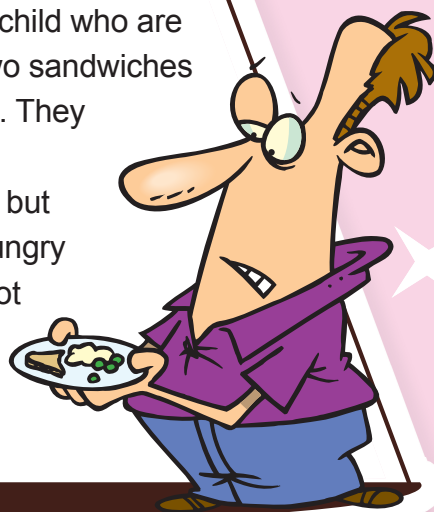
Which do you prefer: autocracy or democracy? Why? Log into stedu.stheadline.com and click on 'Write to us' to tell us what you think!

Is equality fair?

Some people think everyone is different and some need additional help to allow them to **achieve** the same **potential** as others. But some people think it is not fair. Their arguments can be described using the term **equality vs equity**

Equality

This means everyone gets the same thing, regardless of the individual. For example, imagine an adult and a child who are both given two sandwiches each for lunch. They are given equal amounts of food but the adult is still hungry and the child cannot finish the food.



Equity

This means ensuring everyone has access to the same opportunities by supporting those who cannot **access** those opportunities by themselves. Imagine the same lunch, and the same adult and child. The adult needs more food to feel full and the child needs less food. So the adult is given three sandwiches and the child is given one sandwich. In the end, they are both full.



Everyday equity

Often, when people talk about equality, they actually mean equity. Here are some examples of equity in everyday life:

- ✓ starting a girls' football team to encourage girls to do more sports;
- ✓ opening libraries in low-income areas so grassroots kids can do more reading;
- ✓ writing cook books for boys to teach them how to cook;
- ✓ **hosting** language classes so non-Chinese kids can learn better Cantonese.