

"And to the republic for which it stands..."

Listen to the ROOM 2B podcast **REPUBLICANISM** at mrreview.org and complete the following exercise. Be prepared to discuss with your classmates.

1. Find five (5) different definitions of the word "republic." When citing the definition, tell something about its author. Which definition do you like best? Explain.
2. What seems to be the difference between a "republic" and a "democracy"? Which would you prefer? Explain.
3. Would our government today appear to be a republic or a democracy? Find examples that defend your position.
4. Read the scenario below taken from Madison's Federalist 10 and answer the prompts that follow:

The other point of difference is, the greater number of citizens and extent of territory which may be brought within the compass of republican than of democratic government; and it is this circumstance principally which renders factious combinations less to be dreaded in the former than in the latter. The smaller the society, the fewer probably will be the distinct parties and interests composing it; the fewer the distinct parties and interests, the more frequently will a majority be found of the same party; and the smaller the number of individuals composing a majority, and the smaller the compass within which they are placed, the more easily will they concert and execute their plans of oppression. Extend the sphere, and you take in a greater variety of parties and interests; you make it less probable that a majority of the whole will have a common motive to invade the rights of other citizens; or if such a common motive exists, it will be more difficult for all who feel it to discover their own strength, and to act in unison with each other. Besides other impediments, it may be remarked that, where there is a consciousness of unjust or dishonorable purposes, communication is always checked by distrust in proportion to the number whose concurrence is necessary.

- A. Describe the main idea or essential claim.
- B. In the context of the scenario, explain how the claim discussed in (A) can be found today in American government and politics.
- C. Explain how republicanism encourages pluralism.