

## Democracy 5 Dahl on Why Democracy Part 1

Please **read pp. 44-53** of Chapter 5, “Why Democracy?” from Robert Dahl’s *On Democracy*. After reading the selection, answer the questions that follow.

1. Why should we believe that democracy is a better way of governing the state than any non-democratic alternative?
2. How do you think democracy helps to avoid the rule of autocrats?
3. Why does Dahl think it is misleading to worry about the tyranny of the majority in democracy?
4. Why are rights necessary elements in democratic political institutions?
5. According to Dahl, what would endanger fundamental rights in a democracy?
6. Why does democracy guarantee a wider scope of personal freedoms than any feasible alternative?
7. How does democracy enable people to protect their own interests?