***Napoleon: Democratic Reformer or Autocratic Dictator?***

*Directions: Please read the following documents and answer the accompanying questions on a separate sheet of paper. The goal of this exercise is for you to decide if Napoleon was a* ***democratic reformer in line with the goals of the French Revolution*** *or an* ***autocratic dictator that held total power over the French people.***

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| Document 1  “I can no longer obey. I have tasted command. I have tasted power and I cannot give it up. I love power.”  *Source*: *General Napoleon Bonaparte to Andre Francois, private conversation in 1788* |

1. According to Doc. 1, do you think Napoleon is a **democratic reformer** or **autocratic dictator?** Explain

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| Document 2  “Of all our institutions public education is the most important.  Everything depends on it, the present and the future.  It is essential to the morals and the political ideas of the next generation. Above all it is essential to equality. I was not always a ruler. Before I became a ruler, I was a subject, and before that I was a student. I can never forget how powerfully the sentiment (*feeling)* of equality influenced my mind and excited my heart.” *Source: Napoleon Bonaparte, 1802, shortly after being appointed Consul (leader) of the French Republic* |

2. According to Doc. 2, do you think Napoleon is a **democratic reformer** or **autocratic dictator?** Explain.

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| Document 3  “I will be master everywhere in France and of everything, as long as I have breath in my body.  Your character is quite different from mine.  You like flattering people, and falling in with their ideas.  I like people to please me, and to fall in (*agree)* with my ideas.  I am master today.” *Source: Napoleon Bonaparte, in a letter to his brother Joseph, who Napoleon had made King of Spain.* |

3. According to Doc. 3, do you think Napoleon is a **democratic reformer** or **autocratic dictator?** Explain.

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| Document 4  “I have always been of the opinion that the sovereignty (*power to rule)* should lay with the people.  In fact, my imperial government was a kind of republic. I was called the head (*leader)* of it by the voice of the people. My policy was that careers should be open to talent. No one should get special treatment based on birth or fortune, and this system of equality is the reason that your English monarchy hates me so much.” *Source: Napoleon, in a conversation with Barry O’Meara in 1817. O’Meara was Napoleon’s doctor on the island of St. Helena following Napoleon’s final defeat and exile.* |

4. According to Doc. 4, do you think Napoleon is a **democratic reformer** or **autocratic dictator?** Explain.

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| Document 5  “It is said that I love power.  Well, does anyone have any cause for complaint?  Never have the prisons been so empty (*crime been so low)* and the people so safe.  The government is strong, my hand is steady (*stable)*, and my enemies are sensible (*smart)* enough to know that I shall not slacken the reins (*loosen my grip on France)*.”  *Source: Napoleon Bonaparte, 1804, shortly after being crowned emperor of France* |

5. According to Doc. 5, do you think Napoleon is a **democratic reformer** or **autocratic dictator?** Explain.

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| Document 6  “My rise to power was not the result of a conspiracy or a crime.  It was the result of the peculiar (*strange)* circumstances of the times, and because I fought successfully against the enemies of my country.  What is most extraordinary (*special)*, though, and I believe unmatched in history, is that I rose from being an average soldier to the astonishing height of power I possessed (*being emperor)* without having committed a single crime to obtain it.” *Source: Napoleon Bonaparte, written in in 1817 during his exile on St. Helena* |

6. According to Doc. 6, do you think Napoleon is a **democratic reformer** or **autocratic dictator?** Explain.

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| Document 7  “I have always considered Louis XVI’s death to be a crime, and I thought so before I became a ruler myself.  Since I have worn a crown I have shown clearly enough that I mean to close the door on revolution (*stop it from happening)*.  The sovereigns (*kings)* of Europe are indebted to me (owe me) for stopping the revolutionary storm that threatened their thrones.” *Source: Napoleon Bonaparte, December 1812* |

7. According to Doc. 7, do you think Napoleon is a **democratic reformer** or **autocratic dictator?** Explain.

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| Document 8  “The benefits of the Code Napoleon (*Napoleonic Code)*, public trial, and the introduction of juries will be the leading features of your Government.  And to tell you the truth, I believe these things will help you consolidate (*strengthen, secure)* your rule over the Germans more than the most resounding (*dramatic, decisive)* military victories. I want your subjects to enjoy a degree of liberty, equality, and prosperity never before known to the German people. And they will love you for this.” *Source: Napoleon Bonaparte, in a letter to his brother Jerome. Napoleon appointed Jerome as the new King of Prussia after conquering the Prussians* |

8. According to Doc. 8, do you think Napoleon is a **democratic reformer** or **autocratic dictator?** Explain.

**Think**: Overall, was Napoleon more of a democratic reformer or autocratic dictator? How do you know/why do you think that?

**Write**: Make a claim. Support your claim with reasons. Support your reasons with evidence (facts, examples, details). Cite your work - Examples: According to Doc. 1, “quote” OR The information in Doc. 1 shows OR “quote” (Doc. 1).