

Here is a model to follow for making a summary matching the expectations of your oral exams (Centrale, Mines, CCINP)



## Donald Trump says he is not a dictator. Isn't he?

From deploying the national guard to targeting news channels and schools, the US president's actions are anything from typical of a democratic leader

**Adam Gabbatt**

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**Opening statement:** You can choose any news story that fits the situation. Here a brief reminder of what happened to comedian Jimmy Kimmel after the assassination of Charlie Kirk could work: his remarks following the death of the far-right activist got him fired from ABC channel after pressures from the White House, matching Donald Trump's tendency to lean towards authoritarianism presented in the text.

**Presentation of the document:** The article under study is an opinion piece written by Adam Gabbatt for *the Guardian* on September 1st, 2025.

**Key question:** To what extent can it be said that Donald Trump is leading the United States into a dictatorship?

**Outline and summary:** don't forget to announce your outline before starting your summary!

### 1. A series of anti-democratic moves by Donald Trump that indicate he is a would-be dictator.

- Events mentioned in the text that represent shows of force on the part of Donald Trump
  - o National guard sent to Washington and Democratic-ruled cities.
  - o Attacks on channels that don't follow his line.
  - o Displaying representations of an authoritarian self (the banner on the Department of Labour)
  - o Military parades to celebrate him, and a wish for them to embody become the embodiment of his authority.

MOREOVER

- Contradictory statements: saying he is not a dictator but that people want one.
- Open attacks against his opponents: opposing party, former Democratic President Obama.
- Favouring his family and close ones to allow them to profit from his presidential status.

**2. In the face of those moves, a country divided in its reaction to Donald Trump's actions.**

- A substantial amount of people strongly criticize Donald Trump's moves, try to resist, especially in places governed by the Democrats.

*HOWEVER*

- A country with a habit of leaning towards support for authoritarian ideas and projects:
  - o Agreeing with people like Charles Coughlin who voiced their admiration for dictators like Mussolini
  - o By backing racial segregation (through Jim Crow laws)
  - o By agreeing with the mistreatment of socialists and communists in the 1960's.

**3. Ultimately, a consensus among experts that the danger is real.**

- Although the title remains rather provocative, a language that sheds doubts at Trump's democratic intentions.

*IN ADDITION*

- Intervention of two experts with consensual approaches on what is happening
  - o Kim Lane Scheppele: a professor of sociology in a prestigious university: explicitly claims that Trump is already a dictator. She uses comparisons with Hungary and Russia to prove her point.
  - o Steven Levitsky, a political scientist: a more nuanced opinion, but a strong awareness of a real danger of the United States sliding towards an authoritarian regime.