

## Student Worksheet

### DIRECTIONS

Read the following news story and answer the reading comprehension and discussion questions. Use additional paper if necessary.

### STORY

**Farm Russian President Putin's Power Grab Questioned**, 12/05/07

[http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/july-dec07/putin\\_12-05.html](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/july-dec07/putin_12-05.html)

### READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

**1. What was the outcome of the Russian parliamentary election?**

**2. Why are election observers concerned about the results?**

**3. What was the U.S. government's opinion of the elections?**

**4. Why does Putin have to leave office next year?**

**5. How might Putin continue to influence Russian politics even after his two terms?**

**6. Why is Putin such a popular leader?**

**7. Why did Putin withdraw from the arms treaty?**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

**1. Was the Russian election fair? Why or why not? Why does this matter?**

**2. Should Putin be allowed to change the constitution and stay president? Why or why not? Is it problematic that he might become prime minister?**

**3. What is the current relationship between the United States and Russia? Is this relationship as important as our relationship with countries in western Europe? Asia? Latin America? What criteria makes a country more or less important to the United States? Are there different opinions about this? How is your opinion different or similar to President Bush's, other leaders?**

**4. Research the parliamentary system in Russia. How do parliamentary elections work? How is it different from the U.S. government?**

**Extension Activity**

Have students write a 300-500 word essay on this topic providing clear examples. Send your completed editorial to NewsHour Extra ([extra@newshour.org](mailto:extra@newshour.org)). Exceptional essays might be published on our Web site.