Comparing Two Systems
Haiti and Boston

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In Haiti, the government does not have very many buses. They are crowded, inefficient, and not accessible to everyone. But in Boston, the system is much better.

**Comfort**
In Haiti, buses don’t really follow a schedule, and there are no designated stops. Sometimes too many buses come at the same time, and sometimes they don’t come for hours and hours. When a bus finally comes, you have to fight to get on, especially during rush hour. There are so many people and it is so hot, it is hard to breathe. In Boston, even when the bus is full, you feel comfortable.

**Efficiency**
Another problem with traveling on the buses in Haiti is that the trip is not efficient. Sometimes the driver does not follow his route, so you have to take three buses instead of one. This costs you more money! There are no rules for the drivers. They do what they want. In Boston, the driver starts from one point and goes to another point. They aren’t allowed to change their route.

**Infrastructure**
In Haiti, there is no infrastructure for disabled people. The streets and sidewalks are not accessible, and the buses are not equipped for them. It made a great impression on me to see how Boston bus drivers treat the elderly people, the children, and the people with disabilities. For example, the bus driver can lower the bus for people who are in a wheelchair or for those who can’t make the big step up onto the bus.

We still experience some problems with public transportation in Boston. For example, one day, I was waiting for the bus. My phone said it was supposed to come in 5 minutes, but it came 20 minutes late. It was very hard for me because that day was so cold. Even with problems like that, I think the public transportation here is much better here than in my country.

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Instead of buses, many people in Haiti use “tap-taps” (“quick-quick”). A tap-tap is a privately-owned pick-up truck with two benches in the back.

Diagram It!

Make a 3-way Venn diagram showing how public transportation systems in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and the U.S. compare.