



YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

US History and Government
Regents Review

Ratification of the Constitution
Federalists v. Anti-Federalists

RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION

After months of debate in Philadelphia, delegates approved the Constitution of the United States. On September 17, 1787, thirty-nine of the delegates remaining in Philadelphia signed the Constitution. The fact that three, including George Mason, author of the Virginia Declaration of Rights, refused to sign gave an indication of the coming debate. The Framers had written that 9 of the 13 states must approve the Constitution for it to go into effect. Approval would be done through special conventions called in each state rather than through the state legislatures.

The Great Debate and Ratification

Two groups formed in each state: the **Federalists**, who favored ratification, and the **Anti-Federalists**, who opposed it.

The Great Debate

The Federalist Arguments:	The Anti-Federalist Arguments:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wanted a strong national government to provide order and protect rights of people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wanted a weak national government so that it would not threaten the rights of the people or the powers of the states.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Claimed that a bill of rights was unnecessary because the new government's powers were limited by the Constitution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wanted to add a bill of rights to protect the people against abuses of power.

The first five states ratified the Constitution within a few months. By June 1788, nine states had given their approval—enough for ratification. But these did not include the states of Virginia and New York. The success of the new government depended upon acceptance of the Constitution by these two key states.

In Virginia, James Madison led the fight for ratification against the opposition of George Mason and Patrick Henry. Virginia approved the Constitution by 10 votes but with amendments suggested. New York was the next battleground. Here, *The Federalist*—a series of pro-ratification essays by Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, and James Madison—helped turn the tide against the Anti-Federalists, led by Governor George Clinton. Ratification was by a margin of three votes. *The Federalist* remains one of the finest statements on government and the Constitution ever written.

Name: _____

- 1) In the United States during the late 1780's, the Federalists were most likely to support
 - 1) strengthening of States rights
 - 2) ratification of the United States Constitution
 - 3) establishment of a weak national government
 - 4) continued loyalty to the British Government
- 2) During the debates over the ratification of the United States Constitution, Federalists and Anti-Federalists disagreed most strongly over the
 - 1) division of powers between the national and state governments
 - 2) method of amending the Constitution
 - 3) provision for admitting new states to the Union
 - 4) distribution of power between the Senate and the House of Representatives
- 3) Antifederalists criticized the United States Constitution primarily because governing power was concentrated in the
 - 1) President's Cabinet
 - 2) National Government
 - 3) delegates to the Constitutional Convention
 - 4) State legislatures
- 4) A major objection to the United States Constitution when it was presented for ratification in 1787 was that the Constitution
 - 1) contained too many compromises
 - 2) reserved too much power to the states
 - 3) required the approval of all the states to ratify it
 - 4) provided insufficient guarantees of civil liberties
- 5) In the 1780's, the publication of The Federalist papers was intended to
 - 1) justify the American Revolution to the colonists
 - 2) encourage ratification of the United States Constitution
 - 3) express support for the election of George Washington to the Presidency
 - 4) provide a plan of operation for the delegates to the Constitutional Convention
- 6) One reason for the importance of the Federalist Papers in United States history is that these writings
 - 1) convinced the colonists to rebel against Great Britain
 - 2) helped persuade some states to ratify the United States Constitution
 - 3) outlined plans for the geographic expansion of the United States
 - 4) presented the first legal arguments in favor of retaining slavery
- 7) The major reason the Bill of Rights was added to the United States Constitution was to
 - 1) limit the power of state governments
 - 2) protect individual liberties against abuse by the Federal Government
 - 3) separate powers between the three branches of government
 - 4) provide for equal treatment of all people
- 8) "...no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause,... and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized."

A basic reason for the inclusion of this provision in the Bill of Rights was the colonial experience with the

 - 1) British practice of failing to bring arrested persons to trial
 - 2) trials of newspaper publishers who criticized British officials
 - 3) British use of writs of assistance
 - 4) British ban on settlement west of the Appalachians
- 9) Those who supported the ratification of the United States Constitution promised to add a bill of rights in order to
 - 1) encourage economic development
 - 2) increase the power of the National Government over the states
 - 3) prevent the return of English control over the new nation
 - 4) persuade the anti-Federalists to accept the Constitution

- 10) During the ratification debates of 1788 to 1791, the activities of the Antifederalists led to the
- 1) strengthening of the Articles of Confederation
 - 2) drafting of the Declaration of Independence
 - 3) addition of the Bill of Rights to the Constitution
 - 4) adoption of the Northwest Ordinance