

Fed Up

Debating the Constitution

Benchmark: SS.7.C.1.8 Explain the viewpoints of the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists regarding the ratification of the Constitution and inclusion of a bill of rights.

Clarifications/Objectives:

- Students will identify the viewpoints of the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists about the ratification of the U.S. Constitution.
- Students will compare the viewpoints of the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists about the ratification of the U.S. Constitution.
- Students will recognize the Anti-Federalists' reasons for the inclusion of a bill of rights in the U.S. Constitution.

Time: One class period

Materials:

- Fed Up PowerPoint
- Handout A: Fed Up
- Computer
- Projector
- Dry erase boards *optional*

Lesson Preparation

- Review all handouts and PowerPoints
- Print and review the PowerPoint in “notes view”. The PowerPoint includes notes to guide the lesson.
- Determine method of the “Who said it?” game – either dry erase boards or verbal answers

Lesson Overview

Review idea that the original intent of the constitutional convention was to revise the Articles of Confederation. The PowerPoint will then provide a general outline of the U.S. Constitution, created in favor of revising the weak Articles of Confederation. The PowerPoint will also provide the guidelines for ratification as outlined in Article VII of the U.S. Constitution.

Distribute Handout A Using the PowerPoint go through the perspectives of the Federalists and Anti-Federalists and their position on the ratification of the U.S. Constitution. Students should be completing their handout at the PowerPoint progresses by noting the three main points for/against the Constitution as outlined by the Federalists and Anti-Federalists.

Begin the “Who Said It?” activity by dividing the students into teams of 3-5 students. Each quote provided is from the Federalist Papers or Anti-Federalist Papers. Students will need to identify if this is a quote from the Federalist Papers or Anti-Federalist Papers and the issue it addresses: State government v. central government or rights of the people. Students can either write responses on dry erase boards or raise their hand. Keep score throughout the game. Go over the “Key for Remembering” at the end of the game.

Check for Understanding: The final slide will include a question from the End of Course Exam Item Specifications book. Have the students independently write down their answer and ask student to explain how they made their decision.

Hold a ratifying convention in your class. 9 of 13 states were needed to ratify the Constitution. Options for holding a ratifying convention:

- Place the students in groups/pairs so you have 13 groups voting, each representing one state.
- Allow students to vote individually. 69% of the students would need to vote in favor of the Constitution for ratification.

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Federalists	Anti-Federalists