

Debate: Federalists vs. Anti-Federalists

Imagine that it is 1788. The Federalists and Anti-Federalists are holding a debate on the Constitution. You are going to play the role of a famous Federalist or Anti-Federalist.

1. Your teacher will divide the class into six groups.
2. Your teacher will assign your group one of the Federalists or Anti-Federalists on **Handout D**.

Write down the name of the person you are assigned: _____

3. Working with your group, discuss and take notes on how you think your person would answer the following questions:
 - Do you think it is important that the United States have a strong central government? Why or why not?
 - Do you think the Constitution should have a bill of rights? Why or why not?
 - Do you favor or oppose the Constitution? Why?
4. Working with your group, prepare for the debate. Do the following:
 - Read your person's biography. Think how your person would answer the questions.
 - Read the biographies of other people. Be prepared to respond to any points that they may make.
 - Reread the article on the *Federalist Papers*. This will help your preparation.
 - Prepare your answers.
 - Make an introduction for your person. (You will need to know what the person had accomplished by 1788 and why he was important.)
 - If your teacher permits, find more information. You can do this in two ways:
 - a) Go to the library. Look in the encyclopedia for general information. Then, look for books and periodicals with more information. A library will usually have computers that allow you to search the library's database and card catalog. Reference librarians also can help you locate books and periodicals.
 - b) On the Internet, go to the Constitutional Rights Foundation web site (www.crf-usa.org) and click on **Links**. Then, click on **Project History Links**. Click on **The Federalist Papers**. Your person is listed with links to a lot of information.
5. The class will meet and hold a debate on the Constitution. You will first introduce your person and then role-play him in the debate.