

RATIFICATION PROJECT

Due: January 20, 2014

75 POINTS

Getting the Constitution ratified was far from automatic. Most of the delegates at the Philadelphia convention knew that the draft they had produced was not perfect and that there would be considerable debate about whether or not it should be ratified. As you know, Antifederalists opposed the Constitution for a variety of reasons, including the desire for a weaker central government with stronger states' rights and the demand for a Bill of Rights to guarantee civil liberties. (A brief outline of the Anti-Federalist is available on the calendar page with this assignment) On the other hand, the Federalists favored a strong central government with power shared by legislative, executive, and judicial branches. (A brief outline of the Anti-Federalist is available on the calendar page with this assignment) Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay championed the Federalist cause. Patrick Henry and Mercy Otis Warren were among those who opposed the document.

You are about enter the debate over ratification. You and your partner(s) (**no more than a group of 4**) will gather information on the issues of concern to your side of the debate (you will be assigned your position after advising me of your choice of partner(s)). You will use the Internet and other sources to gather information. You should primarily rely on the original writings of these two groups, found in the Federalist Papers and the Antifederalist papers, available at the links below. Based on what you find, **YOU ARE TO PREPARE A PERSUASIVE WORK OF ADVOCACY** articulating and supporting the views of your side of the debate.

Your work may take the form of a video presentation, a slide show, oral presentation (either by way of a skit, a dramatic reenactment, or other **creative** method) or a multimedia extravaganza. In all events, your work **MUST** cover the following issues:

- Form of government: republic or democracy
- The necessity and benefit of a national judiciary
- The power of the President
- The power of Congress
- Checks and Balances on the power of the Federal Government

Links ► <http://www.law.emory.edu/FEDERAL/federalist/>
Index to Federalist papers from the Emory University Law School
► <http://www.thisnation.com/library/antifederalist/index.html>
Index to the AntiFederalist Papers

You and your partner(s) will receive the same grade on the project, unless I find some basis to differentiate between contributions to the final product. The grade will be based on the following:

Content..... 50 possible points

(this includes accuracy of information & coverage of all required topics)

Presentation 25 possible points

(includes organization, creativity and delivery of information)

Area	1	2	3	4	5	Points Received	Points Possible
Content	Limited content, many irrelevant issues and points presented	Minimal content, some off-topic information	Adequate but lacking in several issues	Some relevant issues or points missed	Covered all relevant issues and key points; minimal or no irrelevant content		Points x1=50
Area	1	2	3	4	5	Points Received	Points Possible
Organization & Research	Disorganized, unable to follow flow, limited or no research	Not organized, superficial research or research with significant errors	Occasionally jumps around, some errors in research	Logical sequence but not well organized, good research	Very logical, well organized, cohesive, good flow, substantial research on all parts		X2=10
Creativity	Boring, not engaging	Minimal creativity	Moderately creative. Limited use of presentation media	Creative, some irrelevant slides, excessive use of text on slides	Original, innovative, presentation media used very well, no excessive use of text on slides		Points x2=10
Delivery	Unintelligible, mumbled, inaudible	Voice is low, reading notes, little poise	Mostly clear, some eye contact, less reading	Poised at times, clear voice, not always engaging	Clear voice, good eye contact, animated, poised and engaging		5
						Total Points	75