


Race to Ratify

Name: _____

A. Ye Olde Social Media. Before Twitter, there were other ways to get the word out. Check out the three delivery methods below and think through their benefits and drawbacks, keeping in mind that the information you are spreading may be a little controversial.

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|---|---|
| Word of Mouth / Personal Letters Pros: Cons: | Newspapers Pros: Cons: |
| Pamphlets Pros: Cons: | |











B. Before the Constitution. For each time period, determine who has the power and describe what the government is like.

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|---|--|
| Native American Societies Power: Government: | British Colonies 1607-1776 Power: Government: |
| Articles of Confederation 1777-1789 Power: Government: | The U.S. Constitution 1789-Present Power: Government: |

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C. Whose Argument Is It? Read each article and assign it to either the Federalist or Anti-Federalist side. Beside the light bulb, write the big idea it discusses: *Extended Republic, House of Representatives, The Senate, The Executive, The Judiciary, A Bill of Rights, Slavery, and Taxation.*

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>1. Your Liberty Is At Stake! The states are, and should remain, the core of our republic. It is there that the people can be properly represented. When states have to bend to the central government's will, the people will pay with their liberty.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Federalist <input type="checkbox"/> Anti-Federalist</p>  | <p>2. Leave It to the Experts The common people do not have the refinement to participate directly in the government. A chosen body of citizens will refine the desires of the masses and apply their wisdom to ruling the nation.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Federalist <input type="checkbox"/> Anti-Federalist</p>  |
| <p>3. A Good Investment A government simply cannot operate, provide critical services, and support a military without money. A reasonable amount of taxes is needed to maintain a functional federal government. The alternative is a do-nothing government and non-existent national defense. Growth and improvement cost money, but are worth the investment.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Federalist <input type="checkbox"/> Anti-Federalist</p>  | <p>4. Save It for Later Critics from both sides have complained about how slavery is treated in this proposed Constitution. Some wanted more protections for the institution of slavery, while others wanted it abolished entirely. The only way to move forward is to compromise. We must leave this debate to the future.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Federalist <input type="checkbox"/> Anti-Federalist</p>  |
| <p>5. What Size Crown? After our breakup (and war) with King George III a few years back, why would we want another king at the head of our new government? Supporters say that the president will be elected. I don't think that means he won't go looking for a crown.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Federalist <input type="checkbox"/> Anti-Federalist</p>  | <p>6. Not Equal, Not Fair The Senate creates a completely unequal setting for legislation. As it stands, the tiny state of Delaware has as much representation in the Senate as a large and populous state like Virginia. How is this fair? How is this democratic?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Federalist <input type="checkbox"/> Anti-Federalist</p>  |
| <p>7. To Do List: MAKE A LIST The supporters of the Constitution do not believe a listing of the rights of the people is necessary. They are wrong. We need a Bill of Rights to make sure the government doesn't take away our liberties.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Federalist <input type="checkbox"/> Anti-Federalist</p>  | <p>8. Why Restrict Representation? I see no reason to restrict the representation of small states in the House. America deserves a government with balanced state power, giving each an equal seat at the table.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Federalist <input type="checkbox"/> Anti-Federalist</p>  |
| <p>9. Judging the Judicial Opponents of the Constitution are trying to scare you away with unfounded tales about the judicial branch. Here's the truth—this is the smallest and least powerful branch in the government. It cannot tax you, command the military, or take away your rights. It is created to protect your liberty. Remember that.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Federalist <input type="checkbox"/> Anti-Federalist</p>  | <p>10. Forget the List A written list of rights sounds like a great idea, until you think about it a little harder. Can we all agree on ten things, or even a hundred? Would those make up the whole list? What about something you think of later? Is it not protected? Putting things on paper makes it seem like there are only so many rights worth protecting.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Federalist <input type="checkbox"/> Anti-Federalist</p>  |

D. Rebranding. The Federalists were able to pick a name for their group, while the Anti-Federalists were left to be named by their opposition. Using what you've learned about each of these groups, create an alternative name and slogan for each.

The Federalists

AKA _____

Slogan: _____

The Anti-Federalists

AKA _____

Slogan: _____