

**CAN YOU IDENTIFY THE VIEWPOINTS OF THE FEDERALISTS  
& ANTI-FEDERALISTS?**

SS.7.C.1.8

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Read the text below about the ratification of the Constitution. Mark text that helps you identify the Federalists and Anti-Federalists' main ideas about ratification. Then, read Viewpoints 1 and 2 on the issues below. Write in the boxes provided if the viewpoint belongs to Federalists or Anti-Federalists.

**IDENTIFYING VIEWPOINTS**

During the period from the drafting and proposal of the Constitution between May and September 1787, to its official adoption in 1788 there was an intense debate on ratification. Ratification was the process of officially approving the U.S. Constitution. During this period, people basically divided into two groups, the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists.

Federalists supported the proposed Constitution. They believed that the Constitution set up a system where the federal, or central, government would share power with the states. They also believed that the way the government was set up under the new Constitution would protect people's rights. Anti-Federalists opposed the ratification of the Constitution. They were concerned that the Constitution gave too much power to the federal government and not enough power to the state governments. Anti-Federalists were also concerned that the Constitution lacked a specific listing of rights. They believed that a bill of rights was essential to protect the people from the federal government.

Viewpoint 1	Issue	Viewpoint 2
Too much power would be taken from the states. A federal system of government was too new and untested.	<b>Power between the federal and state government</b>	The federal government would have specific powers that would protect all the people.
By not listing specific rights in the Constitution, the people were protected better than they would be if the Founders tried to list all the rights they could possibly think of.	<b>An enumerated list of individual rights</b>	The Constitution needed a specific listing of rights to protect the people from the national government.
The necessary and proper/elastic clause would give too much power to Congress. Congress would use the necessary and proper/elastic clause to abuse its power.	<b>Legislative Powers</b>	The necessary and proper clause/elastic clause would allow Congress to respond to the needs of all the people.
Separation of powers and checks and balances would not do enough to protect the people from any branch of government becoming too strong. The national government would still have too much power.	<b>Powers of the federal government</b>	Separation of powers and checks and balances protect the people from any branch of government becoming too strong.

