



Federal Government: SS.7.C.1.8
**Federalists versus
Anti-Federalists**
VIDEO SCRIPT #2



Federalists vs. Anti-Federalists Video #2

1. Welcome back! You're just in time for the second review session on Federalists vs. Anti-Federalists.
2. Today, we often argue about what the Founding Fathers meant by some of the language in the Constitution and the later Bill of Rights and other amendments.
3. In this video, you will learn about the viewpoints of the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists regarding the ratification of the Constitution and inclusion of the Bill of Rights.
4. After watching this tutorial video, you will be able to
 - ✓ compare the viewpoints of the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists about the ratification of the U.S. Constitution, and
 - ✓ you will be able to recognize the Anti-Federalists' reasons for the inclusion of a bill of rights in the U.S. Constitution.
5. Does the Constitution give us a right to privacy? How much power should the President have? What did they mean by "keep and bear arms" within the Bill of Rights?
6. It's important to remember when we have those arguments that even our Founders didn't always agree about some of the issues, and that includes whether the Constitution was even necessary! The argument between the Federalists and Anti-Federalists over ratification shows that. Let's take a few minutes and compare their views directly. What did each group believe about government power and the Constitution?
7. The Federalists and Anti-Federalists had different views about power being shared between the states and the national government. The Federalists believed that the Constitution protected citizens in every state and provided them peace, liberty, and safety, but the Anti-Federalists thought that the Constitution took too much power from the states and their ability to self-govern.

ON SCREEN

Concern About Government Power	Federalist Viewpoint	Anti-Federalist Viewpoint
Power between the states and national government	National government would have enumerated (listed) powers that would protect all the people no matter which state they lived in.	Too much power would be taken from the states; a federal system was too new and untested.

8. The idea of a list of rights was a significant difference between the Federalists and Anti-Federalists, and it needed to be solved before the Constitution could be ratified! The Federalists insisted that a listing of rights might make the government and the people think that what was on the list were the only rights they had, and that could mean the government could oppress rights not listed.

9. The Anti-Federalists said hey, wait a minute, NO LIST of rights could mean that same thing! So wouldn't it be better to have a strong list of rights that protect the people from the national government identified in the Constitution?

ON SCREEN

Concern About Government Power	Federalist Viewpoint	Anti-Federalist Viewpoint
An enumerated listing of individual rights	People protected better by NOT listing all rights. Something might be left out, and that could be dangerous for the people.	Needed a specific listing of rights to protect people from national government.

10. The Federalists thought one problem of the Articles of Confederation was that it didn't let the legislature respond to the needs of the people. The Constitution's necessary and proper (or elastic) clause, they said, would make it easier for Congress to carry out its enumerate powers.

11. The Anti-Federalists thought the necessary and proper/elastic clause was way too broad and vague and could lead to Congress abusing its power like the British Parliament did!

ON SCREEN

Concern About Government Power	Federalist Viewpoint	Anti-Federalist Viewpoint
Legislative powers	Necessary and proper clause/elastic clause would allow Congress to respond to needs of all the people.	Congress would use necessary and proper clause/elastic clause to abuse its power.

12. Today, we see checks and balances and separation of powers as significant protections against too much government power, just as the Federalists did. The Anti-Federalists, though, thought that the government could *STILL* have too much power even *WITH* separation of powers and checks and balances, thanks in part to the inclusion of the necessary and proper/elastic clause!

ON SCREEN

Concern About Government Power	Federalist Viewpoint	Anti-Federalist Viewpoint
Powers of the national government	Separation of powers and checks and balances protects the people from any branch of government becoming too strong.	The national government would still have too much power, even with separation of powers and checks and balances.

13. For the Federalists, the Articles of Confederation created a weak and poor country that wasn't very unified. The Constitution, they believed, would change that. The Anti-Federalists, though, believed it was important that the states keep their individual identities. Massachusetts would never be like South Carolina, and that was okay! Did we want a government where every state had to be the same to be united?

ON SCREEN

Concern About Government Power	Federalist Viewpoint	Anti-Federalist Viewpoint
The country needed to be united.	The Constitution would create a stronger and more unified country than the Articles of Confederation did.	The nation could be united while the states kept their own individual identities.

14. Well, it seems the Federalists and Anti-Federalists had some issues to address before they could agree on the new Constitution. It's not much of a spoiler to tell you that they DID address them, since we have the Constitution now!

15. But how exactly did they do it? What was the one big issue they had to compromise on in order for the states to ratify the Constitution? It all came down to rights.

16. The Anti-Federalists thought it was important for the Constitution to include a bill of rights. This listing of specific rights would protect the people from the federal government abusing its power.

17. The way the British treated the colonists before they declared independence was fresh in their minds. Many Americans felt that a specific listing of rights was needed!

18. As a condition of support for the proposed Constitution, the Federalists agreed that a Bill of Rights would be added. The Constitution was eventually ratified by all of the states. And soon after its ratification, in 1791, Congress and the states ratified the Bill of Rights.

19. This compromise between the Federalists and Anti-Federalists allowed the Federalists to get the Constitution ratified while also respecting the Anti-Federalist belief that a Bill of Rights was necessary to protect the rights of the people.

20. Our written Constitution has served us well for more than 200 years. It is important to remember that it is a product of compromise between smart people who didn't always agree on everything. So the next time you hear about our Congress, President, or Supreme Court arguing about the Constitution, you'll know that they are just following an old American tradition!

21. So let's check in. Try to answer for yourself the following questions.

22. What are at least three things about the Constitution that the Federalists and Anti-Federalists disagreed on?

23. ANSWER TO QUESTION

24. What is the purpose of the necessary and proper (or elastic) clause within the Constitution?

25. ANSWER TO QUESTION

26. Why did the Anti-Federalists reject the argument of the Federalists about a bill of rights?

27. ANSWER TO QUESTION

28. How is the ratification of the Constitution an example of a compromise?

29. ANSWER TO QUESTION