

Federalists v. Anti-Federalists Lesson

Anticipatory Set: 4 Corners Activity (strongly agree/agree/disagree/strongly disagree)

- Agree/disagree signs in corners of room
- Students must get out sheet of paper and number it 1 to 10
- Question one displayed on overhead –Students answer. Then get up and move to the corner in which they chose. (Students must write it down first to avoid the “herd” tendency and influence)
- Students physically and mentally take a stance on the issue
- Briefly discuss →get multiple perspectives
- Students return to seats. Go through questions 2-10

Objectives:

- Students will understand the basic differences between the Federalists and Anti-Federalists
- Students will be able to apply constitutional principles to current events
- Students will demonstrate knowledge of different viewpoints on the same issue.
- Students will explain an article to the class giving both sides in a summary. →Include creation of a visual aid during description.
- Students will critically rethink their opinion of issues in anticipatory set and describe what they have learned.

Procedure:

- Go over Federalist and Anti-Federalist notes on the board
- Read list of things the founders did NOT know about when writing the constitution
- Divide students into 5 groups.
- Distribute articles *Current Events*: (immigration/healthcare/national debt/war powers/FEMA)
- Students read article in groups
- Analyze both perspectives (Federalist/Anti-Federalist)
- Students create a presentation to demonstrate and summarize the main points of the article to the class. → Include some sort of visual aid during presentation (poster/skit/etc.)
- Present to class
- Pass out **Guided Questions**

Conclusion: Ask students to reconsider the 10 agree/disagree questions and consider if their opinions have changed or if their arguments have MORE or LESS validity to them now.

4 Corners INTRO

(Strongly Agree / Agree / Disagree / Strongly Disagree)

1. I believe every American should have some form of Healthcare.
2. Congress has the authority to compel us to do something or *buy* something.
3. The President should have the authority to use military force and send troops overseas for conflict at his discretion.
4. I think *Military Force* should ONLY be used when it is approved by Congress.
5. An out-of-wedlock child born to an unemployed *illegal-immigrant* mother in Paris, Texas, is a citizen when he breathes his first breath.
6. The Naturalization process for attaining citizenship is currently too difficult and should be modified to allow an easier path to U.S. citizenship.
7. It is Unconstitutional for congress to run up the national debt to an amount greater than the size of the GDP.
8. It is Unconstitutional for congress to allow the U.S. government to default on its debt and neglect the obligation to pay back its debtors.
9. The Federal Government should play a key role in responding to natural disasters occurring in the states.
10. The Federal Government has taken too much control and freedoms away from the states and its citizens.

Anti-Federalist: Arguments:

Opposed constitution & strong Nat'l gov't

- ✓ Feared for individual liberties
- ✓ Feared “necessary and proper” (*Elastic*) clause → too much power to congress
- ✓ Feared it would swallow state gov'ts and undermine the Republic system → Take power from people
- ✓ Had no bill of rights

Main Politicians: George Mason/Richard Henry Lee/Patrick Henry

Federalists: (supported the constitution and a strong national gov't because it would:

- Provide protection for all states & individual.
- Maintain order
- Regulate trade
- Guarantee rights of citizens with 3 branches of gov't and representation in congress
- Ensure national debts paid
- Ensure US money had stable value here & abroad

Main Politicians: Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, and James Madison

COMPROMISE → Bill of Rights added

FEDERALISTS v. ANTI-FEDERALISTS

Guided Questions: (Immigration/Healthcare/War Power/FEMA/National Debt)

1. What would represent the “Federalist” position on this current issue? Anti-Federalists?
2. How would Federalists respond (criticize or approve) of how our current government officials are handling the issue? Anti-Federalists?
3. Having read the article, has your knowledge of the issue expanded? How does this current issue relate to the constitution? (at least 2 examples)
4. Have your opinions changed on any of the issues talked about today? If so which?
5. Which side (Federalist or Anti-Federalist) do you agree with most? Explain.