

# The Ratification Bargain

Trace how debate and compromise helped the Constitution win support.

**7.4c** "Advocates for and against a strong central government were divided on issues of States rights, role/limits of federal power, and guarantees of individual freedoms..."

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline arguments for stronger federal power. Circle concerns about state authority or individual freedom. Star compromises or protections that helped win agreement.

### Debating a New Constitution

- ① Under the Articles of Confederation, the national government could not tax citizens directly or regulate interstate trade. In 1787, delegates drafting a new Constitution disagreed about representation. Large states wanted population-based representation; small states wanted equal votes. The Great Compromise created a House of Representatives based on population and a Senate with equal representation for each state.
- ② Federalists supported the Constitution, arguing that a stronger government could collect taxes, manage trade, and defend the nation. New Yorkers Alexander Hamilton and John Jay wrote essays supporting ratification. Dividing power among legislative, executive, and judicial branches would help prevent unchecked power. Federalism divided authority between national and state governments. The national government received constitutional powers; states retained substantial authority within constitutional limits.
- ③ Opponents, often called Anti-Federalists, feared that the new federal government could become too powerful and weaken state authority. They also objected that the Constitution did not clearly protect freedoms such as speech, religion, or fair legal treatment. Ratification required agreement from nine of the thirteen states, so supporters had to answer these concerns. Several states ratified after supporters promised amendments. In 1791, the Bill of Rights added ten amendments that placed limits on federal power and protected individual freedoms.

**2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE** \_\_\_\_\_ Use the passage

**1** How did the Great Compromise respond to the different goals of large and small states?

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**2** Give two reasons Federalists supported a stronger federal government.

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**3** What two major concerns did Anti-Federalists have about the proposed Constitution?

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**4** How did the promise of amendments help supporters gain ratification, and what was added in 1791?

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**3 YOUR TURN** \_\_\_\_\_ Your own words

Write 3 or 4 sentences as a delegate deciding whether your state should ratify the Constitution. Include one reason for federal power, one concern about state authority or individual freedoms, and one compromise or protection you would require.

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**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline arguments for stronger federal power. Circle concerns about state authority or individual freedom. Star compromises or protections that helped win agreement. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                         | ANSWER                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|---|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | How did the Great Compromise respond to the different goals of large and small states?           | <b>It created a House of Representatives based on population, which large states wanted, and a Senate with equal representation for each state, which small states wanted.</b>                             |
| 2 | Give two reasons Federalists supported a stronger federal government.                            | <b>Federalists said it could collect taxes, manage trade, and help defend the nation. Any two reasons are acceptable.</b>                                                                                  |
| 3 | What two major concerns did Anti-Federalists have about the proposed Constitution?               | <b>They feared the federal government would become too powerful and weaken state authority. They also feared that individual freedoms were not clearly protected.</b>                                      |
| 4 | How did the promise of amendments help supporters gain ratification, and what was added in 1791? | <b>The promise answered concerns about individual rights and helped several states ratify. In 1791, the Bill of Rights added ten amendments limiting federal power and protecting individual freedoms.</b> |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

I would support a federal government that can collect taxes for national defense and regulate trade. My state should still manage its local laws. To protect citizens, I would require a list of rights, including freedom of speech. I would vote to ratify only after that promise is made.

Accept responses that accurately present both a reason for federal power and a concern about state power or individual rights. The proposed compromise or protection must address the concern and be historically plausible.