

The Ratification Choice

Trace the arguments that shaped the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

USI.7.c "examining constitutional issues debated, including the role of the national government and the debate over ratifying the Constitution, the influence of the Federalist Papers, and the reasons for the addition of the Bill of Rights;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB In the passage, write 1 beside a reason for a stronger national government, 2 beside a reason to support ratification, 3 beside a worry about ratification, and 4 beside a reason for the Bill of Rights.

A New Plan for Government

- ① In 1787, delegates met in Philadelphia because the Articles of Confederation gave the national government too little power. Congress could not collect taxes or regulate trade between states. The proposed Constitution created a stronger national government with powers to tax, make laws, and provide for defense. It also divided power among three branches and shared some powers with state governments.
- ② Americans disagreed about whether to ratify, or approve, the Constitution. Federalists supported ratification. They believed a stronger national government could keep order, protect the country, and solve problems among states. Anti-Federalists worried that the new government might become too powerful and threaten the rights of people and states. They asked for a clear list of protected freedoms.
- ③ To persuade people, James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay wrote essays called the Federalist Papers. The essays explained and defended the Constitution. They argued that limits on government power, including separate branches, would help prevent abuse. During the ratification debate, supporters promised amendments. In 1791, the first ten amendments, called the Bill of Rights, were added to protect freedoms such as speech and fair trials.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

- 1 What are two powers the proposed Constitution gave the national government that Congress did not have under the Articles of Confederation?

- 2 How did Federalists and Anti-Federalists disagree about ratifying the Constitution?

- 3 How did the Federalist Papers try to influence the ratification debate?

- 4 Why was the Bill of Rights added, and what are two freedoms or protections named in the passage?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Imagine you are deciding whether to ratify the Constitution. Write 3 or 4 sentences that give your recommendation, name one benefit of a stronger national government, state one concern, and explain how the Bill of Rights could address that concern.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

In the passage, write 1 beside a reason for a stronger national government, 2 beside a reason to support ratification, 3 beside a worry about ratification, and 4 beside a reason for the Bill of Rights. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What are two powers the proposed Constitution gave the national government that Congress did not have under the Articles of Confederation?	It gave the national government power to collect taxes and regulate trade between states. It also gave it power to make laws and provide for defense.
2	How did Federalists and Anti-Federalists disagree about ratifying the Constitution?	Federalists supported ratification because they wanted a stronger government to keep order, protect the country, and solve problems among states. Anti-Federalists feared the government would become too powerful and threaten rights.
3	How did the Federalist Papers try to influence the ratification debate?	They explained and defended the Constitution to persuade people to support ratification. They argued that limits on government power would help prevent abuse.
4	Why was the Bill of Rights added, and what are two freedoms or protections named in the passage?	It was added to protect freedoms because people worried that the new government might threaten rights. It protected freedom of speech and fair trials.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would support ratification if the Constitution included a Bill of Rights. A stronger national government could protect the country and solve problems between states. My concern is that a powerful national government could threaten people's rights. The Bill of Rights could protect freedom of speech and fair trials.

Accept equivalent powers, arguments, and protections stated in the passage. For the open response, accept either recommendation if it includes a benefit, a concern about government power or rights, and a logical explanation of how the Bill of Rights responds to the concern.