

Federalists vs. Anti-Federalists Debate

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

The student will construct and deliver a persuasive argument representing either the Federalist or Anti-Federalist position on ratifying the Constitution.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- paper
- pen
- index cards
- a family member or friend to debate with (optional)

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1. Choose to represent either the Federalists (supported ratifying the Constitution as written) or the Anti-Federalists (opposed it, wanting more protection for individual rights and states).
2. Research or review 3 key arguments your chosen side used, and write each on a separate index card with a one-sentence explanation.
3. Write a persuasive 1-minute speech using your 3 arguments, including an opening statement and a closing call to action urging your audience to support your side.
4. Deliver your speech out loud to a family member or by recording yourself, using confident posture and clear speech.
5. Switch perspectives: write 2 sentences summarizing the strongest argument from the OPPOSING side, showing you understand both perspectives.

QUESTIONS

1. Which side did you represent, and what were your 3 main arguments?

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2. What was the strongest argument from the opposing side, in your own words?

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3. What compromise ultimately resolved the main disagreement between Federalists and Anti-Federalists?
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4. Why do you think it was important for both sides to debate before the Constitution was ratified?
