

Test Grade RATIFICATION Activity over chapters 8-11

The biggest issue facing the fledgling nation after the Declaration of Independence was not “Home Rule”, but, rather “who would rule at home?” After the difficult and bloody struggle by the minority (less than 50%) group of dedicated rebels (now Patriots) the more important task of creating a sound governmental system required a solution. The Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union was drafted by the Continental Congress in 1776–77, and went into use in 1777. It was formally ratified by all 13 states in 1781 as an agreement among the 13 founding states that legally established the United States of America as a confederation of sovereign states (Nations???) and served as its first constitution.

Pretend that the date is September 17, 1787. The constitutional Convention has met and created a new Constitution for the United States of America. Before it can become the official government it must be ratified by 9 of the 13 states. Currently, all 13 states are holding ratifying conventions to decide if they will join this new nation. Your job is to assume the role of someone involved in this process at the state level. All Founding Fathers are off-limits. You will do this assignment individually or in groups two. All others will work as individuals. Individuals can choose whether to be a Federalist or an Anti-Federalist. In the groups of two, one member will play the role of Federalist; the other will be an Anti-Federalist. I will expect the same amount of work from each team member as I will from the individuals.

Even though it is historically inaccurate, we are going to pretend that you have received a rough draft of Madison’s original 12 point Bill of Rights (find all twelve online, and see which one’s did not make the cut).

Your job is to research the needs of your state, and how this new constitution will affect it if ratified. You must also consider how well your state will survive outside the union if you choose not to join. Make sure you take trade, resources, exports, population size, etc. into consideration as you help decide your state’s future.

Additionally, you MUST know the following.

1. What Federalism is.
2. How exactly the powers of government will be divided amongst the three branches.
3. How is this new constitution different from your current state constitution (you need to look this up and know both the state constitution and the new Constitution’s structure)?
4. What is going to be the relationship between the state and national governments?
5. What are **all** the major compromises hammered out at the Convention and who were the main characters? How will these compromises affect your state?
6. A short bio of the historical character you chose.
7. Research the Federalist and Anti-Federalist Papers. Especially, but not limited to Federalist 10 and Brutus 5.

Now take all this and create a presentation using one of the following formats

1. a fake facebook. There are plenty of free sites like: <http://web20edu.com/2011/04/16/fake-facebook-templates-and-pages-for-student-projects/> Just make sure that I can access without a facebook account because I do not have one.
2. a blog. There are dozens of free sites like www.blogger.com
3. a podcast: access this through <http://www.apple.com/itunes/podcasts/> See Mr. Fitzgerald and Mr. Zuber as they have already gone through the process
4. a youtube video (these are VERT time consuming if you plan to act in the video). BUT, a series of pictures and text with as voice over can be effective.
5. a website
6. the leaders of the party sending tweets to twits back and forth discussing the issue while also talking about other factual events going on the state.
7. Any other creative medium (other than a newspaper) that you can think of.

Ultimately you will be graded as follows

Creativity of presentation	30 pts
Ease of use (navigating through the presentation).	10 pts
Content (analyzing points 1-7 on the front side)	70 pts

As you math wiz's can see... if you need, feel fre to use a calculator.