

Anti-Federalists vs. Federalists Worksheet

Federalists & Anti-Federalists Name: _____

Who Would Say That? Read each statement. If it sounds like something a Federalist would have said to support the Constitution, write **F** in the box. If it sounds like something an Anti-Federalist would have said to complain about the Constitution, write **A** on the line

A 1. The Constitution gives the federal government enough power to overpower the states.

F 2. It will not be possible for the federal government to overpower the states, because the states are a necessary part of the federal government.

A 3. The Constitution contains no Bill of Rights to protect individual liberties like freedom of speech, trial by jury, and the right against searches and seizures.

A 4. The Constitution says federal laws are "the supreme law of the land," so the federal government could just take complete control.

F 5. Nothing in the Constitution says the federal government has power to limit peoples' freedoms in the first place.

F 6. The Constitution gives the federal government just a few powers that are very well defined.

A 7. The President created by the Constitution is really just a king.

F 8. A strong President is necessary to protect the country against foreign attack and make sure laws are carried out properly.

A 9. The Constitution creates a Supreme Court that is too powerful because the judges don't answer to anyone.

A 10. The Constitution already contains a few rights, so we may as well add a whole Bill of Rights.

F 11. The Supreme Court is the weakest branch of government because it doesn't control the military and can't pass laws.

F 12. The Constitution forbids creating titles of nobility like "Duke" or "King," so the government will always belong to the people.

A 13. The United States is too large to have a central government. People won't know their leaders and will lose control over the government.

F 14. The Constitution is a Bill of Rights because it guarantees citizens a role in government.

Sound Off: Do We Need the Bill of Rights? Explain whether you agree with a famous federalist:



Alexander Hamilton

The Preamble (opening) of the Constitution says, "We the People... do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America." The people created this Constitution. That is enough to make sure the government will never violate peoples' rights. We don't need an extra Bill of Rights!

If the Bill of Rights was REMOVED from the Constitution, would you feel secure that the "We the People" preamble protects your rights?

Sure! I would feel secure because... No way! I'd be worried because...

Handwritten notes on lined paper for the "Sure!" response.

- Bill of Rights
- Freedom of speech
- Freedom of religion
- Freedom of the press
- No unreasonable
- Right to due process of
- No cruel punishments
- Right to a
- Right to a fair