



## Federalist Papers vs Anti-Federalist Papers

### Using Evidence

<b>Objective</b>	<i>What were the major philosophical differences between the Federalists and Anti-Federalists?</i>
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**Federalist Papers - Primary Source Document Analysis**

**Historical Context:** After the US Constitution was written in 1787, states had to approve and agree to this new form of government. Debates took place across the 13 states in state governments. The debate extended to the citizens of the United States, who in turn would influence their state representatives, in the form of persuasive pieces written in the newspapers. The Federalist papers were written by John Jay, Alexander Hamilton, and James Madison. The Anti-Federalist papers were not written in an organized form and questions remain about who authored the Anti-Federalist papers.

**Directions:** Read the three excerpts below and answer the analysis questions on the next page.

[Federalist Paper #1](#)

1	Among the most formidable of the obstacles which the new Constitution will have to encounter will be a certain class of men in every State who wish to resist all changes because they may result in these men losing the power and the offices they hold in the State governments . . . a dangerous ambition more often lurks behind the mask of men who claim to be for the rights of the people, for they more often than not claim to be for the rights of man, but only because they seek to elevate their own position... we should be not for blindly bending the government to the rights of the people, but for the efficiency and firmness of a national government...
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[Federalist Paper #51](#)

1	But what is government itself, but the greatest of all reflections on human nature? If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary. In framing a government which is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to control the governed; and oblige it to control itself . . .
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[Federalist Paper #84](#)

1	“I go further, and affirm that bills of rights, are not only unnecessary in the proposed Constitution, but would even be dangerous. They would contain various exceptions to powers not granted... For why declare that things shall not be done which there is no power to do? Why, for instance, should it be said that the liberty of the press shall not be restrained, when no power is given to the government by which restrictions may be imposed? . . . Furthermore, if some powers are outlined and protected, what can happen to those that aren't?
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## Analysis Questions:

- 1) *Close Reading:* According to the Federalist Papers, are the Bill of Rights necessary? Why or why not? Cite evidence from at least one of the Federalist Papers to support your claim.
  
- 2) *Close Reading:* Do you think the authors of the Federalist Papers would support a strong central government with weak state governments, or the opposite, strong state governments with a weak central government? Cite evidence from at least one of the Federalist Papers to support your claim.
  
- 3) *Analysis:* How do the authors of the Federalist Papers try to build an argument in support of the Constitution in these excerpts?
  
- 4) *Analysis:* In Federalist Paper #51 the author says: "If men were angels, no government would be necessary." What does this tell you about how he views the nature of ordinary man? What does this imply about why government is needed?
  - a) Do you think the authors of the Federalist Papers would argue that ordinary man should be heavily involved in government, or that an elite class of educated men should be heavily involved in the government? Cite evidence from at least one of the Federalist Papers to support your claim.

## Anti-Federalist Papers - Primary Source Document Analysis

**Directions:** Read the three excerpts below and answer the analysis questions on the next page.

### Anti-Federalist Paper #46

1	We find here that the Congress in its legislative capacity, shall have the power to lay and collect
2	taxes, to borrow money; to regulate commerce; to fix the rule for naturalization and the laws of
3	bankruptcy; to coin money; to establish post offices and post roads; to secure copyrights to
4	authors; to declare war...where does it end?
5	. . My object here is to consider that undefined, unbounded and immense power which is
6	comprised in the following clause—“ <i>And to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper</i>
7	<i>for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this constitution</i>
8	<i>in the government of the United States; or in any department or offices thereof.</i> ” Under such a
9	clause as this, can any power be held back from Congress? . . . Besides the powers already
10	mentioned, other powers may be assumed hereafter as contained by implication in this
11	constitution...
13	The Congress are therefore vested with the supreme legislative power, without control. In giving
14	such immense, such unlimited powers, was there no necessity of a Bill of Rights, to secure to
15	the people their liberties? Is it not evident that we are left wholly dependent on the wisdom and
16	virtue of the men who shall from time to time be the members of Congress? And who shall be
17	able to say seven years hence, the members of Congress will be wise and good men, or of the
18	contrary character?...

### Anti-Federalist Paper #84

1	But rulers have the same habits as other men; they are as likely to use the power with which they
2	are vested, for private purposes, and to the injury and oppression of those over whom they are
3	placed, as individuals in a state of nature are to injure and oppress one another. It is therefore as
4	proper that bounds should be set to their authority, as that government should have at first been
5	instituted to restrain private injuries . . .
6	The powers, rights and authority, granted to the general government by this Constitution, are as
7	complete...it reaches to every thing which concerns human happiness—life, liberty, and property
8	are under its control...Ought not a government, vested with such extensive and indefinite
9	authority, to have been restricted by a declaration of rights? It certainly ought.

### Anti-Federalist Paper #1

1	<b>A CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT IS TYRANNY</b>
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3	The first question that presents itself on the subject is, whether a confederated government be
4	the best for the United States or not? Or in other words, whether the thirteen United States
5	should be reduced to one great republic, governed by one legislature, and under the direction of
6	one executive and judicial?...This is impossible. How can New York know of the matters of
7	Massachusetts? The confederation will be killed by this Constitution, and we shall cease to be
8	13 republics governed by our state governments, we shall be under the almighty too powerful
9	Constitutional government...

## Analysis Questions:

- 1) *Close Reading:* According to the Anti-Federalist Papers, are the Bill of Rights necessary? Why or why not? Cite evidence from at least one of the Anti-Federalist Papers to support your claim.
  
- 2) *Close Reading:* Do you think the authors of the Anti-Federalist Papers would support a strong central government with weak state governments, or the opposite, strong state governments with a weak central government? Cite evidence from at least one of the Anti-Federalist Papers to support your claim.
  
- 3) *Close Reading:* Based on the excerpts provided in Anti-Federalist #1, do you think the Anti-Federalists supported the Articles of Confederation or the US Constitution? Cite evidence from Anti-Federalist Paper #1 to support your claim.
  
- 4) *Analysis:* How do the authors of the Anti-Federalist papers try to build an argument against the Constitution in these excerpts?
  
- 5) *Analysis:* Do you think the authors of the Anti-Federalist Papers would argue that ordinary man should be heavily involved in government, or that an elite class of educated men should be heavily involved in the government? Cite evidence from at least one of the Anti-Federalist Papers to support your claim.



# Federalist vs Anti-Federalist Papers

## Using Evidence

**Written Task** *What were the major philosophical differences between the Federalists and Antifederalists?*

**Directions:** Using information from the documents and the phrase bank below the chart, complete the chart below to compare Federalists and Anti-Federalists.

# FEDERALISTS VS. ANTI FEDERALISTS

Federalists favored a \_\_\_\_\_ central government and \_\_\_\_\_ state governments

*Ex: Alexander Hamilton, James Madison*

**Favored the**

-----  
**as the government for the US**

**Felt the Bill of Rights was....**

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**Property owners, landed rich, merchants in Northern states, lived in urban areas**

**Believed that the \_\_\_\_\_ class should be governing our nation**

Anti-Federalists favored a \_\_\_\_\_ central government and \_\_\_\_\_ state governments

*Ex: Thomas Jefferson*

**Favored the**

-----  
**as the government for the US**

**Felt the Bill of Rights was....**

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**Small farmers, shopkeepers, laborers, lived in rural areas**

**Believed that \_\_\_\_\_ was fit to govern**

**Phrase Bank** - use each phrase ONCE only

- Articles of Confederation
- Necessary, believed the Constitution did not protect individual rights
- Well educated, landholding and wealthy
- Unnecessary, believed the Constitution sufficiently protected individual rights
- Common man
- US Constitution