



Foundational Documents of America

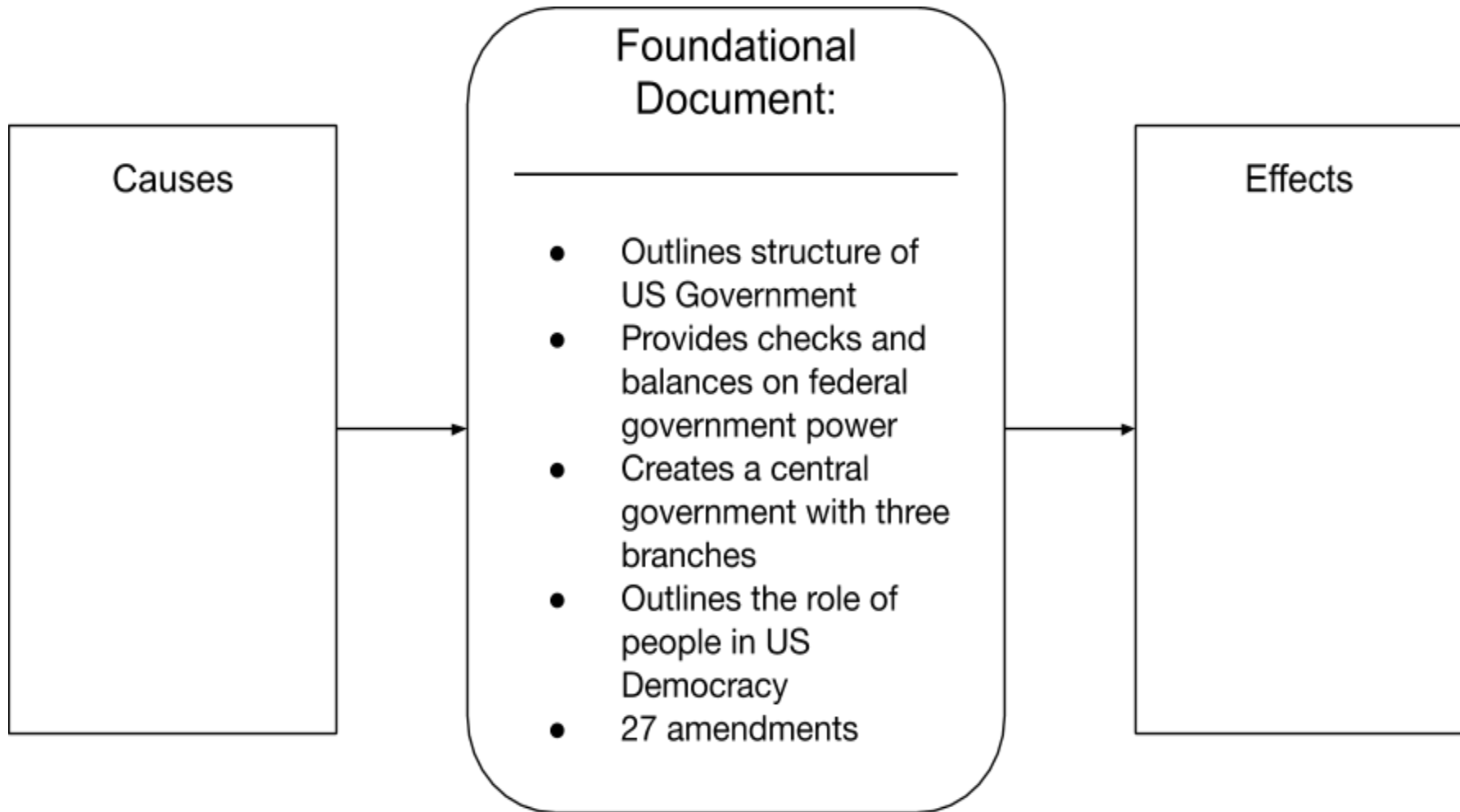
Graphic Organizer

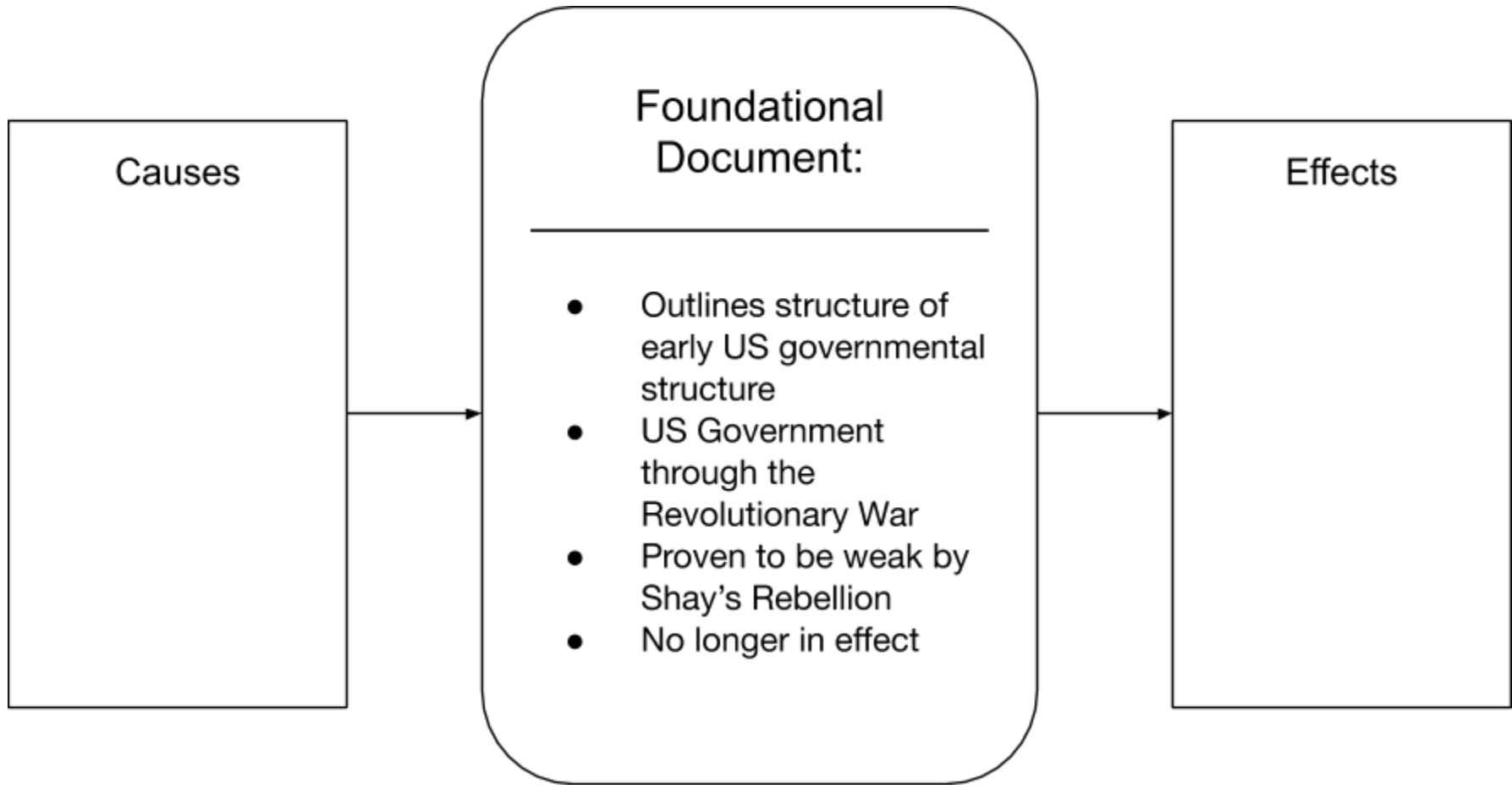
AIM

What are the foundational documents of America? Why were they written? What impact do they have on America today?

Directions: Review the attached five graphic organizers. Label each one with the appropriate foundational document, then use the causes and effects below to fill out each graphic organizer. Every document has at least two causes (possibly more) and at least two effects (possibly more) listed below. Use all the causes and the effects to complete the graphic organizers.

Foundational Document	Causes	Effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill of Rights (1791) • Articles of Confederation (1781) • Constitution (1789) • Declaration of Independence (1776) • Federalist Papers (1788) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shay's Rebellion • US Constitution was being debated in the newspapers • States had to vote passing the US Constitution • Federalists believed in a strong central government • Excise taxes increase, Great Britain tries to increase control over colonies • Boston Massacre • No taxation without representation • Anti-Federalists wanted to protect people from an abusive government • US Constitution without the Bill of Rights had a strong Central government • US needed a government during the Revolutionary War • America declared independence from Great Britain • Articles of Confederation created a weak central (national) government • US was operating like 13 separate small countries • America declared independence from England • American gov't under Articles of Confederation weren't able to collect taxes, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created three branches of US Federal (central) government • Government structure still in place today • Led to Constitutional Convention in 1787 to write US Constitution • American citizens can practice any religion they choose, they have freedom of speech, etc. • Government unable to collect taxes, make changes, etc. • American citizens have basic protections against abuse of government power • Created the office of the President • Weak central government • Every state operated like it's own nation • Convinced Americans to ratify the US Constitution • Explained the US Constitution to citizens in more plain language • Shay's Rebellion • American Revolutionary War • America was no longer a colony of Great Britain



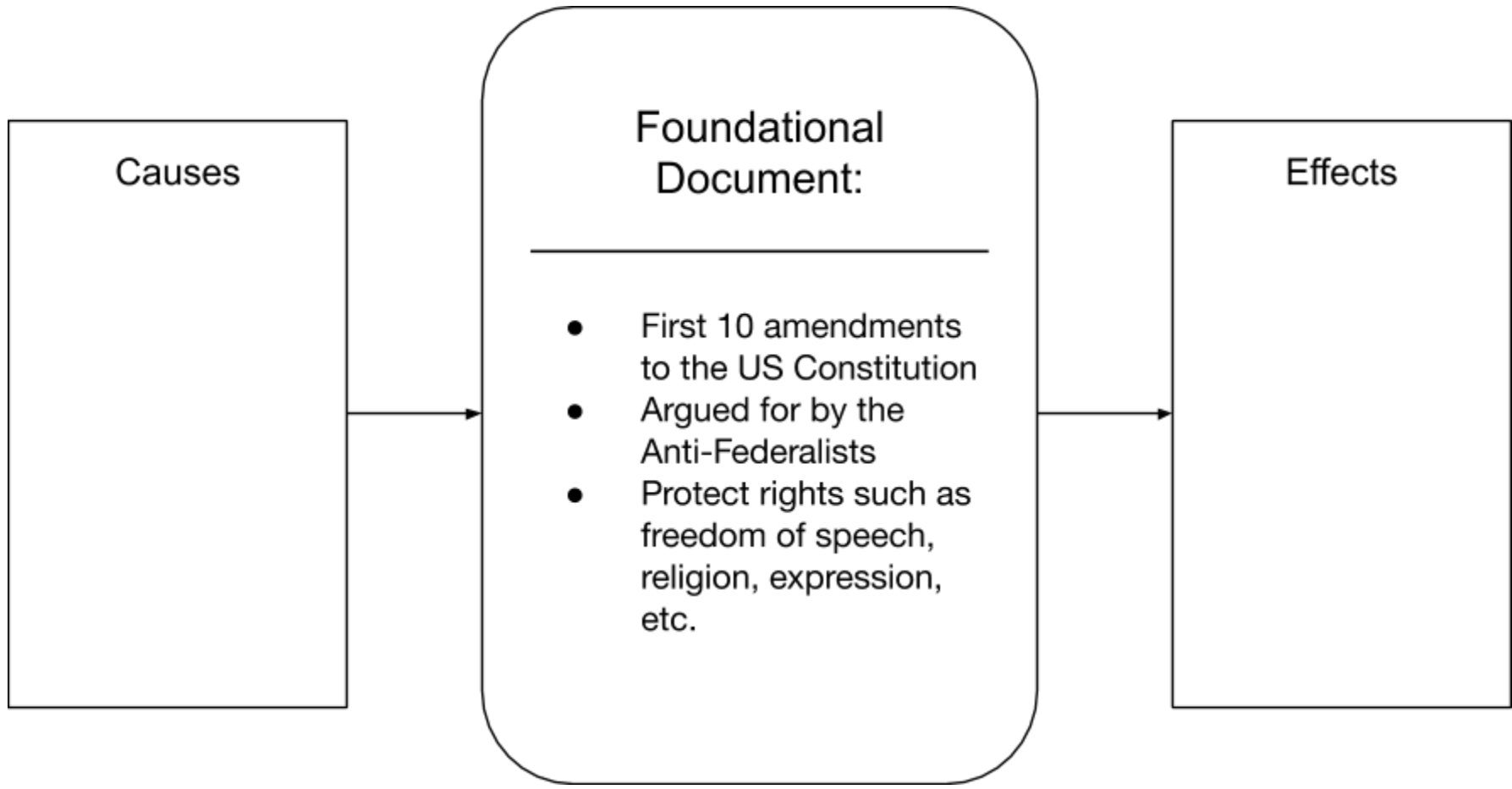


Causes

Foundational Document:

- 85 Essays outlining support for the US Constitution
- Written by James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, John Jay
- "...In the extent and proper structure of the Union, therefore, we behold a republican remedy for the diseases most incident to republican government. And according to the degree of pleasure and pride we feel in being republicans, ought to be our zeal in cherishing the spirit and supporting the character of Federalists" - Federalist #10

Effects



Causes

Foundational Document:

- First 10 amendments to the US Constitution
- Argued for by the Anti-Federalists
- Protect rights such as freedom of speech, religion, expression, etc.

Effects

Causes

Foundational Document:

- Officially declared US as an independent nation, no longer a colony of Great Britain
- Written in 1776
- Listed grievances America had against the King of Great Britain

Effects