

# FEDERALIST DEBATE ORGANIZER

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** As a team, review the format and prepare for the debate by completing this organizer and assigning a job to each person on the team. Then, take time to prepare for your part of the debate.

1. **Introduction:** Read by teacher. You may read this so you know how the debate will start.

*We have called together this important gathering of American citizens. It has come to our attention that recently many of our country's most influential leaders have gathered to make changes to the Articles of Confederation. As it turned out, it was decided to completely throw out the Articles of Confederation and uphold a new Constitution to reflect new changes to our government. There will be two sides presented in today's debate. The first side will be our affirmative side. You will hear from federalist speakers claiming that The Constitution, as it is written, should be ratified as the basis of our laws and government. The federalist side calls for a change to our government. Next you will hear from the people opposing this view, the anti-federalists. The anti-federalists will claim that the Constitution should not be ratified as it is written. This view will call for no change in our government. After each side speaks there will be an opportunity for American citizens in the audience to ask three questions of them. After each side has delivered their arguments and have answered the three questions. There will be one last opportunity for the federalists and anti-federalists to speak to summarize what has been heard and defend their case.*

2. **Openings:** One person on your team of speakers, \_\_\_\_\_, will introduce the team and state your team's claim. This means you will tell that the Constitution should be ratified. Then give a brief preview of the arguments that defend the claim without the supporting details. Then, the antifederalists will give their opening.
3. **Federalist Arguments:** Present your three strongest arguments that defend your position. Each argument should be supported with examples.

Argument 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Presented by \_\_\_\_\_

Argument 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Presented by \_\_\_\_\_

Argument 3: \_\_\_\_\_ Presented by \_\_\_\_\_

4. The anti-federalist citizens will then be able to challenge you with questions about your position. To help you prepare to answer these questions, talk about what questions they might ask to challenge you and how you might answer them. Who from your group will be the main spokesperson to field these questions? \_\_\_\_\_
5. **Anti-federalist Arguments & Federalist Cross-examination:** Anti-federalists will present their three arguments. When they are finished, Federalist citizens in attendance at the town hall meeting will have a chance to question the arguments made by the Anti-federalists. What three questions will you ask that would challenge your opponent? Use the questioning tips from Law Street to help you think of the right questions. Also, pay close attention to the points they are making during the town hall. You may wish to change your questions based on what they present.

Our team's citizens: \_\_\_\_\_

Question 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Question 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Question 3: \_\_\_\_\_

6. **Federalist Closing:** This is your closing statement summarizing your main points and the flaws in the anti-federalist arguments. It should end on a strong note to get people to ratify the Constitution. Take notes throughout the debate so you know what you will say. Our team's closing will be delivered by \_\_\_\_\_.
7. **Anti-federalist Closing:** The anti-federalists will give a closing statement to defend their views. Listen carefully and take notes on any **new** points you need to make to defend your view in your rebuttal.
8. **Federalist Rebuttal (Optional):** You may rebuttal, or respond, one last time if, and only if, you have any **new** points to make to defend your views after hearing the anti-federalist closing. Delivered by \_\_\_\_\_.