

Document A: Anti-Federalist Position (Modified)

Melancton Smith, June 21, 1788

Representatives should be a true picture of the people. They should understand their circumstances and their troubles. Therefore, the number of representatives should be so large that both rich and poor people will choose to be representatives.

If the number of representatives is small, the position will be too competitive. Ordinary people will not attempt to run for office. A middle-class yeoman (farmer) will never be chosen. So, the government will fall into the hands of the few and the rich. This will be a government of oppression.

The rich consider themselves above the common people, entitled to more respect. They believe they have the right to get anything they want.

Document B: Federalist Position (Modified)

Alexander Hamilton, June 21, 1788

The Anti-Federalists seem to think that a pure democracy would be the perfect government. Experience has shown that this idea is false. The ancient democracies of Greece were characterized by tyranny and run by mobs.

The Anti-Federalists also argue that a large representation is necessary to understand the interests of the people. This is not true. Why can't someone understand fifty people as well as he understands twenty people?

The new constitution does not make a rich man more eligible for an elected office than a poor person. I also think it's dangerous to assume that men become more wicked as they gain wealth and education. Look at all the people in a community, the rich and the poor, the educated and the ignorant. Which group has higher moral standards? Both groups engage in immoral or wicked behavior. But it would seem to me that the behavior of the wealthy is less wicked and sinful.

Federalist and Anti-federalist Graphic Organizer

Name _____

	Document A: Anti-Federalists Melancton Smith	Document B: Federalists Alexander Hamilton
Is this person happy with how the new Constitution deals with representation?		
What kind of government would this person like to see?		
Find a quote to support your claim.		
Based on this document, what sort of people in society would support this point of view?		

Federalists	Anti-Federalists
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, John Jay – all known as “Publius” (Federalist Papers)● Property owners, landed rich, merchants● Believed in elitism. Saw themselves and those of their class as most fit to govern.● Powerful central government. 2-house legislature. Representative democracy, with single representatives for 30,000 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Thomas Jefferson, “Brutus” and “Cato”● Small farmers, shopkeepers, laborers● Believed in the decency of the common man and in participatory democracy (closer to direct democracy). Viewed elites as corrupt. Sought greater protection of individual rights.● Wanted stronger state governments at the expense of the federal government. Frequent elections, smaller districts, more direct democracy.