

Federalists v. Antifederalists: Required Documents

For each quote below, identify the document it is from, what it means in simple language, and write a sentence that demonstrates how it could be used in a free response writing to illustrate a point about the issues that concerned people regarding the design of the new government.

Example:

"It is of great importance in a republic not only to guard the society against the oppression of its rulers, but to guard one part of the society against the injustice of the other part. Different interests necessarily exist in different classes of citizens. If a majority be united by a common interest, the rights of the minority will be insecure."

What is the source document? *Federalist 51*

What does the quote mean? *It means that in a democracy where the people rule, where majority rules, there is a danger that the majority will oppress the minority. (This could be an ethnic minority, a religious minority, or some other minority group.) Government should be designed to protect against this.*

Give an example of how the quote could be used in a free response writing:
In Federalist 51, Madison discusses the threat to individual rights that can come from the formation of a powerful majority, and uses this to argue that a large republic is a natural protection against the formation of majority interests, since it would contain so many diverse groups that it would be hard to form political majorities. This is his answer to the Antifederalists' claim that the United States is too big to function as a republic.

1) *"Energy in the Executive is a leading character in the definition of good government."*

What is the source document?

What does the quote mean?

Give an example of how the quote could be used in a free response writing:

- 2) *"This government is to possess absolute and uncontrollable power, legislative, executive and judicial, with respect to every object to which it extends for by, the last clause of section 8th, article 1st, it is declared 'that the Congress shall have power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this constitution, in the government of the United States....' And by the 6th article, it is declared 'that this constitution, and the laws of the United States, which shall be made in pursuance thereof, and the treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, shall be the supreme law of the land....' "*

What is the source document?

What does the quote mean?

Give an example of how the quote could be used in a free response writing:

- 3) *"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 in the next place oblige it to control itself."*

What is the source document?

What does the quote mean?

Give an example of how the quote could be used in a free response writing:

- 4) *"The standard of good behavior for the continuance in office of the judicial magistracy, is certainly one of the most valuable of the modern improvements in the practice of government. ... it is the best expedient which can be devised in any government, to secure a steady, upright, and impartial administration of the laws."*

What is the source document?

What does the quote mean?

Give an example of how the quote could be used in a free response writing:

- 5) *"Complaints are everywhere heard...that our governments are too unstable, that the public good is disregarded in the conflicts of rival parties.... Liberty is to faction what air is to fire...."*

What is the source document?

What does the quote mean?

Give an example of how the quote could be used in a free response writing: