

AP Gov Required Documents: Federalist & Antifederalist Papers

These documents were published during the ratification debates over the adoption of the new U.S. Constitution. While the Federalist papers were specifically written to influence the outcome of the vote at New York's ratification convention, they (and those papers written in opposition, which are now commonly referred to as the Antifederalist papers) reflect the larger debate across the young nation. Collectively, the Federalist papers are often considered the most important written work on politics and government written in the history of the United States.

About the Federalist papers:

Beginning on October 27, 1787 the Federalist Papers were first published in the New York press under the signature of "Publius". These papers are generally considered to be one of the most important contributions to political thought made in America. The essays appeared in bookform in 1788, with an introduction by Hamilton. Subsequently they were printed in many editions and translated to several languages. The pseudonym "Publius" was used by three men: Jay, Madison and Hamilton. Jay was responsible for only a few of the 85 articles. The papers were meant to be influential in the campaign for the adoption of the Constitution by New York State. But the authors not only discussed the issues of the constitution, but also many general problems of politics.

<http://www.let.rug.nl/usa/documents/1786-1800/the-federalist-papers/>

(For an excellent full-page overview of the Federalist papers, and Hamilton's and Madison's roles, go here.: <http://www.let.rug.nl/usa/documents/1786-1800/the-federalist-papers/introduction.php>.

And you can navigate from this page for similarly good info about the Antifederalist papers.)

About the Antifederalist papers:

Unlike the Federalist, the 85 articles written in opposition to the ratification of the 1787 United States Constitution were not a part of an organized program. Rather, the essays— written under many pseudonyms and often published first in states other than New York — represented diverse elements of the opposition and focused on a variety of objections to the new Constitution. In New York, a letter written by "Cato" appeared in the New-York Journal within days of submission of the new constitution to the states, led to the Federalists publishing the "Publius" letters. "Cato", thought to have been New York Governor George Clinton, wrote a further six letters. The sixteen "Brutus" letters, addressed to the Citizens of the State of New York and published in the New-York Journal and the Weekly Register, closely paralleled the "Publius" newspaper articles and Justice Robert Yates, is the presumed author. Melancton Smith's speeches are considered part of the Anti-Federalist Papers and he may have been the author of the "Federal Farmer" articles.

https://history.nycourts.gov/about_period/antifederalist-papers/

Required Federalist & Antifederalist Papers for the AP Gov Exam

| | Pseudonym & Presumed Author | Title | Main Point(s) | Good quotes/excerpts to illustrate the key point(s) |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|-------|---------------|---|
| <i>Federalist 10</i> | | | | |
| <i>Federalist 51</i> | | | | |
| <i>Federalist 70</i> | | | | |
| <i>Federalist 78</i> | | | | |
| <i>Brutus 1</i> | | | | |