

**Read the passage below. Follow the directions for the assignment after the reading.**

The creation of the Constitution entailed hours of debate and compromise, and even when it was completed, some delegates were unhappy with it. The task of fixing the flawed Confederate government was not complete yet; each state had to *ratify*, or approve, the Constitution. Basically, people divided into two groups, the **Federalists** and the **Anti-Federalists**.

\*The **Anti-Federalists** did not want to ratify the Constitution. Basically, they argued that:

- It gave too much power to the national government at the expense of the state governments.
- There was no **bill of rights** for the people.
- The national government could maintain an army in peacetime.
- Congress, because of the 'necessary and proper clause,' wielded too much power.
- The executive branch held too much power.

Of these complaints, the lack of a bill of rights was the most effective. The American people had just fought a war to defend their rights, and they did not want an intimidating national government taking those rights away again. The lack of a bill of rights was the focus of the Anti-Federalist campaign against ratification.

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\*The **Federalists**, on the other hand, had answers to all of the Anti-Federalist complaints. Among them:

- The separation of powers into three independent branches protected the rights of the people. Each branch represents a different aspect of the people, and because all three branches are equal, no one group can assume control over another.
- A listing of rights can be a dangerous thing. If the national government were to protect specific listed rights, what would stop it from violating rights other than the listed ones? Since we can't list all the rights, the Federalists argued that it's better to list none at all.

Overall, the Federalists were more organized in their efforts. By June of 1788, the Constitution was close to ratification. Nine states had ratified it, and only one more (New Hampshire) was needed. To achieve this, the Federalists agreed that once Congress met, it would draft a bill of rights. Finally, New York and Virginia approved, and the Constitution was a reality. Interestingly, the Bill of Rights was not originally a part of the Constitution, and yet it has proved to be highly important to protecting the rights of the people.

**Directions:**

Create the columns you see below on your paper. Then, write the statements below in the column you think it matches up with.

For example, for any statement below you think describes a Federalist's viewpoints, you would write that into the "Federalist" column. If you think the statement describes both Anti-federalists and Federalists, then you would write that statement into the "Both" column.

Federalists	Both	Anti-federalists

- ...believed in American independence and freedom
- ...opposed the Constitution as-is
- ...wanted the Constitution to be approved as-is
- ...feared a strong central government
- ...believed citizens had rights that should be protected
- ...thought the Constitution needed a list of protected rights
- ...thought the Constitution was enough to preserve the citizens' rights.
- ...worried a list of rights might be seen as the ONLY rights that citizens had
- ...agreed to the Bill of Rights as a compromise