**Name:**

**Date:**

**School:**

**Facilitator:**

2.03 Notes Guide

**“Federalists vs. Antifederalists”**

Answer the 2.03 Notes Guide as you review the lesson.

Introduction:

What is going on in the cartoon?

Who are the people and why do you think they are fighting?

Ratification of the Constitution

The compromises at the Constitutional Convention had proven to be tough, but the ratification of the Constitution was equally as challenging. Even before the Constitution was signed by the framers on Sept, 17, 1787, opposition and support teams were forming.

Nine out of the thirteen states had to       or approve the new government, and the vast majority of the American public thought that the product would be a revised Articles of Confederation.

Federalists vs. Antifederalists

The debate over ratifying the new Constitution caused quite a controversy in the country for approximately ten months. Two camps formed, the       who supported the new, stronger federal government and the      who wanted the state governments to retain most of the power to govern.

The Antifederalists’ main argument was that the document lacked a Bill of Rights, which would protect the individual citizen’s rights and states’ rights.

Antifederalists

Antifederalists feared a large federal government would crush the state and local governments. They also felt a president would be no better than a king. Moreover, they feared the new government was so strong that it would infringe on the rights of the people. They sought the addition of a       to the document to ensure protection of individual freedoms.

     , a well-known patriot and leader amongst the Antifederalists, boycotted the Convention and was influential in adding the Bill of Rights to the Constitution.

Federalists

The Federalists wanted a strong national government as provided in the Constitution. Yet, the Constitution also separated powers in order to place limits on the power of government. They argued that a weak central government like the one under the Articles of Confederation had proven the need for a much stronger federal government.

The Federalist Papers

The Federalists were a little more organized in their efforts to persuade Americans to support and ratify the new Constitution. The wrote a series of 85 essays later known as the      , urging the American people to see the benefits of a strong centralized government. The authors included Alexander Hamilton,      , and      ; however, the essays were signed with the fictitious name, *Publius*.

The Federalists Succeed

In an effort to obtain ratification of the new Constitution, supporters agreed to add a Bill of Rights. The support of George Washington was also crucial in the Federalists winning their campaign to get the Constitution ratified. The Federalists’ support helped ratify the U.S. Constitution by June 1788, when New Hampshire became the ninth state to approve it. Rhode Island was the last state to ratify.

New Leaders

Shortly after the Constitution was ratified, delegates met to select a president.       was unanimously elected by the Electoral College as the first President of the United States. The first capitol was in      .       had the second highest popular vote, so he was elected vice president. Washington surrounded himself with trustworthy advisors, later known as the Presidential      .      was named Secretary of State to handle relations with foreign countries.       was named Secretary of the Treasury.