

4.03 Sedition Act Discussion Scoring Guide

Total Points: 30

Less than a decade after the Bill of Rights was passed and freedom of speech and of the press was guaranteed, Congress passed a series of laws that severely limited that right. During a stressful time of a quasi-war with France and the birth of the two-party system, the party in power (the Federalists) created the Alien and Sedition Acts to limit the political power of their rival (the Democratic-Republicans). To do this, the Federalists toughened the naturalization requirements; gave power to deport enemy immigrants; and made it illegal to write, print, utter or publish anything that was false, scandalous, and malicious against the government.

Read the [Sedition Act](#) portion of the Alien and Sedition Acts, which is formally titled *An Act in Addition to the Act, Entitled "An Act for the Punishment of Certain Crimes Against the United States."*

In a post in the 4.03 Sedition Act Discussion, answer the following:

- Did the Alien and Sedition Acts cause a greater divide between the political parties? Explain.
- Is the limitation of the freedoms protected in the Bill of Rights ever justified for any reason? Why or why not?

Your initial post should be at least four to five complete sentences. Support your answer by including evidence from the lesson.

Next, read over your classmates' responses.

- Respond to a classmate whose post you **agree** with and explain why you agree. Your response should be at least 2 complete sentences in length and should further the discussion in some way.
- Respond to a classmate whose post you **disagree** with and explain why you do not agree. Your response should be at least 2 complete sentences in length and should further the discussion in some way.

Scoring Guide:

- **Initial post (20 points possible)**
 - **If all the above criteria are met: 20 points**
 - **If the student fails to fully comply with one of the elements: 19 – 15 points**
 - **If the student fails to fully comply with two or more elements: 14 – 10 points**
- **Responses to classmates (10 points possible)**

- **2 responses required**
 - **Response to a classmate they agree with: 3 points**
 - **Response to a classmates they disagree with: 3 points**
- **Responses are thoughtful and further the discussion = 3 points**
- **Uses complete sentences = 1 point**