

Federalist Papers Analysis and Presentation

Those supporting passage of the new Constitution formulated in 1787 felt that failure to ratify the document would doom the new republic. New York, where Governor Clinton opposed the new governmental charter, was a major ratification battleground. In an effort to sway his home state, Alexander Hamilton initiated a series of essays that explained and defended the new governmental plan. Hamilton was joined by James Madison, and John Jay, and their essays were published under the pseudonym of “Publius” in New York City newspapers. Hamilton authored about two-thirds of the papers, although history has judged Madison’s contributions to be at least as important. *The Federalist Papers* clearly occupy a place in the American political heritage surpassed, perhaps, only by the *Declaration of Independence* and the *Constitution* itself. Interestingly, one finds in the *Federalist Papers* a good deal of internal inconsistency, strained logic, lengthy, repetitive, and sometimes obtuse writing. It must never be forgotten that these essays represent the viewpoint of advocates seeking to win an ongoing political battle. It is, perhaps, a pragmatic thrust of and a commentary on the underlying ideology supporting the new Constitution.

In a paper, assess and analyze two Federalist papers using the applicable criteria below. Make sure you are objective in your analysis.

Criteria for Analysis:

- Summarize the main points of each paper
- Describe why this would be such an important issue for the writers
- Explain the arguments or reasons made in their support of the Constitution
- Analyze if there is any faulty logic or inconsistency in the writer’s argument(s)

Federalist Paper	Student Assigned
<i>Federalist 1</i> – General Introduction	
<i>Federalist 10</i> – Union Safeguarded	
<i>Federalist 15</i> – Insufficiency of the Confederation to Preserve the Union	
<i>Federalist 47</i> – The Particular Structures of the New Government	
<i>Federalist 45</i> – The Alleged Danger from the Powers of the Union to the State Governments	
<i>Federalist 48</i> – Distribution of Powers	
<i>Federalist 51</i> – Checks and Balances	

Paper Specifications: Your paper should be about 4-6 typed pages, double-spaced, 12-point font with 1” margins. Feel free to divide your paper into sections to address the criteria. Papers will be due via e-mail by

Presentation Specifications: Your presentations will take place on Sept 20 and Sept 21. Your presentations should not consist of reading your paper but a synopsis of the main points of your paper.