

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Nail the 5th Grade Constitutional Debate Quiz

Construct sound arguments about the Great Compromise and analyze how the Separation of Powers balances federal authority.

1. To prevent any one person from having too much power, the Constitution created a system where the President can veto a law, but Congress can override that veto. What is this specific concept called?

Answer: B) Separation of powers and checks and balances

Checks and balances ensure that the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches monitor each other so no branch becomes tyrannical.

2. During the Constitutional Convention, Roger Sherman proposed the _____, which solved the dispute between large and small states by creating a two-house legislature.

Answer: C) Great Compromise

The Great Compromise (or Connecticut Compromise) created the House of Representatives based on population and the Senate with equal representation.

3. The Anti-Federalists refused to support the new Constitution unless a Bill of Rights was promised to protect individual liberties.

Answer: A) True

Anti-Federalists feared a strong central government and insisted on specific protections for citizens' rights before they would agree to ratification.

4. In 1787, the Northwest Ordinance was a significant achievement because it established a clear process for doing what?

Answer: B) Admitting new states to the Union on equal footing

The Northwest Ordinance provided a structured way for territories to become states, ensuring they had the same rights as the original thirteen.

5. The 'Preamble' to the Constitution begins with the phrase '_____', signaling that the government's power comes from the citizens themselves.

Answer: B) We the People

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

The phrase 'We the People' establishes the principle of popular sovereignty, meaning the people are the source of government authority.

6. Under the Articles of Confederation, the national government had a strong President and a national court system to settle disputes between states.

Answer: B) False

The Articles of Confederation lacked both an executive branch (President) and a national judiciary, which was one of its primary weaknesses.

7. What was the primary concern of delegates who supported the 'New Jersey Plan' during the debates over the Constitution?

Answer: A) That large states would dominate the national government

Small states supported the New Jersey Plan because it offered equal representation, preventing larger states from having more legislative power.

8. The 1794 _____ demonstrated that the new federal government under the Constitution was strong enough to enforce its laws and maintain order.

Answer: D) Whiskey Rebellion

Unlike Shays' Rebellion, the Whiskey Rebellion was quickly suppressed by federal troops led by George Washington, proving the Constitution worked.

9. Which Federalist leader argued for a National Bank and a strong federal government to manage the nation's revolutionary war debts?

Answer: B) Alexander Hamilton

Hamilton believed a national bank was 'necessary and proper' to create a stable economy and establish the nation's credit.

10. The Three-Fifths Compromise was a decision regarding how enslaved people would be counted for both taxation and representation in Congress.

Answer: A) True

This compromise allowed Southern states to count 60% of their enslaved population toward their total population for House of Representative seats.