

The year is 1789, and you are being asked to help advise the Founding Fathers of the United States. Evaluate your feelings about the new Constitution. (Upper-level Critical Thinking)

For the following 5 general statements (topic sentences) for and against the new Constitution, brainstorm as much evidence as you can from 1781-1789. Use different sources (lecture and others). Also, you can go back to the Revolutionary Period, 1763-1776.

Create a graph or another visual means to collect this evidence in your notes (Wheels, perhaps?) Whatever works for you is fine with me. If a standard outline works better, that's fine, too.

Arguments in favor of the new Constitution.

Thesis: The new Constitution will serve our nation better than the Articles of Confederation.

TSs:

1. We need a new Constitution to be able to unify the nation against possible foreign and domestic threats.
2. The new Constitution would help our nation speak as one voice, not 13.
3. We need a stronger federal government for the sake of our economy.
4. The Articles of Confederation is too anti-federalist: states have too much power.
5. We need three branches of government.

Arguments against the new Constitution

Thesis: We should keep the Articles of Confederation rather than making a new Constitution.

TSs:

1. The rich people who wrote the Constitution have hidden motives and are unfair to everyone who isn't rich.
2. Our states will not have enough power under the Constitution—they will lose their sovereignty.
3. The Constitution is bad for the states' economies.
4. A strong national army could be dangerous and violate the freedoms of people in states.
5. Having three branches of government will be dangerous for liberty.