

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Analyzing a Primary Source from the Federalist Era

### Definitions:

- “Primary Source”: the raw materials of history—original documents and objects that were created at the time under study (Library of Congress)
- “Federalists” – Federalists wanted to see a strong national government in which state governments were subordinate to the national government.
- “Anti-Federalists or Democratic-Republicans” - Anti-Federalists wanted a new government in which state governments superseded the national government. They also insisted on adding the Bill of Rights to the Constitution.

### Directions:

- Select a provided primary source
- Read the document
- Fill out the worksheet questions and reflections

### 1. Document Quick Facts

a. Document Title:

b. Author(s):

c. Date:

d. Which presidential administration is associated with this document?

e. Is the perspective Federalist or Democratic-Republican?

## 2. The Document's Contents

a. What event is explained, discussed or responded to?

b. Is the author supporting or attacking an idea, policy or event?

c. Does the author provide specific examples or reasoning to support their claims? Provide an example from the text.



## 3. Analyzing the Impact

a. Based on the document, how does the author view this event, idea or policy regarding the governance and prosperity of the United States?

b. If the author gives a preferred vision for the future of the nation, what does that look like?

c. Does the author try to draw unifying themes?

## 5. Reflection

a. Do you think the author's position is reasonable? Why or why not?



b. What are three positive things that differing points of view can produce? What are three negatives or challenges if people hold strong viewpoints without being willing to listen to others' ideas?

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