

## Federalist & Antifederalist Positions

Issue	Federalists	Antifederalists	Notes
A Constitution establishing a strong central government	Favored	Opposed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The chief worry of the Antifederalists was that the states would lose influence with the growth in the national government's power</li> </ul>
Power of thirteen states	Favored limiting state power. Argued that Senate (with two representatives per state) adequately represented state interests	Strong supported power and influence of states	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local control was key to Antifederalist concept of democracy. This issue would boil up in states' rights fights in 1800s</li> </ul>
Bill of Rights	Not necessary	Supported as essential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The absence of a Bill of Rights in the original Constitution was seen as a real threat to individual citizens' liberties</li> </ul>
Articles of Confederation	Opposed as ineffectual as a governing document. Congress' power was limited to requesting cooperation from states.	Articles needed to be amended, not abandoned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The decision at the Annapolis Convention (1786) to suggest a national convention to modify the Articles proved to be crucial.</li> </ul>
Size of the nation	A large republic was seen as the best protection for individual freedoms	Only a small republic could protect rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No experiment in democracy on a scale of America had ever been attempted.</li> </ul>
Supporters	Large farmers, merchants, artisans	Small farmers, often from rural areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only a few wealthy men (Mason and Randolph of Virginia, Gerry of Massachusetts) joined the Antifederalists.</li> </ul>

\*Based on *The American Journey: A History of the United States* by Goldfield, et al.