

SAR Brochure Contest Theme Judging Aid.docx

The Nation's Five Foundational Documents:

Select one of the five foundational documents from the American Revolutionary War era

Articles of Confederation (13 Articles) lasted from 1776 to 1787

- 1 Establishes the name of the confederation as "The United States of America."
- 2 Asserts the precedence of the separate states over the confederation government
- 3 Establishes the United States as a league of states united ... "for a common defense ..."
4. Establishes freedom of movement—anyone can pass freely between states
- 5 Allocates one vote in the Congress of the Confederation (United States in Congress Assembled) to each state
- 6 Only the central government is allowed to conduct foreign relations and to declare war.
- 7 When an army is raised for common defense, colonels and below will be named by the state legislatures
- 8 Expenditures by the United States will be paid by funds raised by state legislatures per real property values of each
- 9 Defines the powers of the central government: Declare War; set weights & measure, including coins
- 10 Defines a Committee of the States to be a government when Congress is not in session
- 11 Requires nine states to approve the admission of a new state into the confederacy
- 12 Reaffirms that the Confederation accepts war debt incurred by Congress before the Articles
- 13 Declares that the Articles are perpetual, can only be altered by approval of Congress with ratification by *all* the state legislatures

Source: Wikipedia http://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Articles_of_Confederation

The Bill of Rights - The Amendments- 1-10

Amendment 1 - Freedom of Religion, Press, Expression. Ratified 12/15/1791. : Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Amendment 2 - Right to Bear Arms. Ratified 12/15/1791. : A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Amendment 3 - Quartering of Soldiers. Ratified 12/15/1791. : No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Amendment 4 - Search and Seizure. Ratified 12/15/1791. : The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Amendment 5 - Trial and Punishment, Compensation for Takings. Ratified 12/15/1791. : No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Amendment 6 - Right to Speedy Trial, Confrontation of Witnesses. Ratified 12/15/1791. : In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.

Amendment 7 - Trial by Jury in Civil Cases. Ratified 12/15/1791. : In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

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Amendment 8 - Cruel and Unusual Punishment. Ratified 12/15/1791. : Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Amendment 9 - Construction of Constitution. Ratified 12/15/1791. : The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Amendment 10 - Powers of the States and People. Ratified 12/15/1791. : The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

Source: We The People blog. <http://wethepeople09171787.blogspot.com/2011/07/amendments-1-10-bill-of-rights.html>

Constitution

The Preamble *The Preamble lists the reasons that the 13 original colonies separated from their mother country, and became an independent nation.*

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, make good government & laws insure domestic Tranquility, peace in our homes provide for the common defense, national security promote the general Welfare, healthy communities and secure the Blessings of Liberty freedom to ourselves and our Posterity, family & friends do ordain and establish give authority this Constitution the supreme law of the land for the United States of America.

The Seven Articles of the US Constitution *The Constitution is our plan for government. The Articles of the Constitution talk about the duties of the three main parts of government: the Executive Branch, the Legislative Branch, and the Judicial Branch. The articles also talk about the separate powers of the Federal and State government, and how to change the Constitution.*

Article 1: Legislative Branch: the U.S. Congress makes the laws for the United States. Congress has two parts, called "Houses," the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Article 2: Executive Branch: the President, Vice-President, Cabinet, and Departments under the Cabinet Secretaries carry out the laws made by Congress.

Article 3: Judicial Branch: the Supreme Court decides court cases according to US Constitution. The courts under the Supreme Court decide criminal and civil court cases according to the correct federal, state, and local laws.

Article 4: States' powers: States have the power to make and carry out their own laws. State laws that are related to the people and problems of their area. States respect other states laws and work together with other states to fix regional problems.

Article 5: Amendments: The Constitution can be changed. New amendments can be added to the US Constitution with the approval by a two-thirds vote in each house of Congress (67, 281) and three-fourth vote by the states (38).

Article 6: Federal powers: The Constitution and federal laws are higher than state and local laws. All laws must agree with the US Constitution.

Article 7: Ratification: The Constitution was presented to George Washington and the men at the Constitutional Convention on September 17, 1787, Representatives from twelve out of the thirteen original states signed the Constitution. From September 1787 to July 1788, the states meet, talked about, and finally voted to approve the Constitution.

Source: Wake Tech Community College, NC

<http://www2.waketech.edu/blogs/elcivics/files/2011/03/summary-of-the-US-Constitution.pdf>

Declaration of Independence (1776)

On June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee brought what came to be called the Lee Resolution before the Continental Congress. This resolution stated "these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states..." Congress debated independence for several days. Four days later, a committee made up of John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman, Robert R. Livingston, and Thomas Jefferson was given the job of drafting a formal declaration of independence. The Committee of Five gave the task of writing the declaration to Jefferson.

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The declaration contained 3 sections: a general statement of natural rights theory and the purpose of government, a list of grievances against the British King, and the declaration of independence from England. More than 20 years later, the Second, Third, Fourth, and Sixth Amendments to the Constitution would contain prohibitions against the government to prevent the same forms of tyranny as were listed as grievances. Jefferson's writing was influenced by George Mason's Virginia Declaration of Rights, as well as by his study of natural rights theory and the writings of John Locke, including Two Treatises of Government. Jefferson's draft was edited by Franklin and Adams, and the final draft was presented to Congress just over two weeks later.

On July 2, 1776, the Continental Congress voted to declare independence from England. Congress made several changes to the wording of Jefferson's draft, including removing references condemning slavery. On July 4, 1776 the Declaration of Independence was adopted. It was signed by John Hancock, the President of the Continental Congress, that day. The rest of the Congress signed two months later. By affixing their names to the document, the signers courageously pledged to each other their "lives...fortunes...and sacred honor."

The Declaration of Independence is considered by many to be the philosophical foundation of American freedom. It has been quoted by Americans as various as Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Abraham Lincoln, and Martin Luther King, Jr. who have referenced it as a beacon of hope for all people everywhere

Source: Bill of Rights Institute <http://billofrightsinstitute.org/founding-documents/declaration-of-independence/> (copied entirely)

Federalist Papers

The Federalist Papers consist of eighty-five letters written to newspapers in the late 1780s to urge ratification of the U.S. Constitution. With the Constitution needing approval from nine of thirteen states, the press was inundated with letters about the controversial document. Celebrated statesmen Alexander Hamilton, James Madison and John Jay weighed in with a series of essays under the pseudonym "Publius," arguing that the proposed system would preserve the Union and empower the federal government to act firmly and coherently in the national interest. These articles, written in the spirit both of propaganda and of logical argument, were published in book form as The Federalist in 1788.

These are a series of eighty-five letters written to newspapers in 1787-1788 by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay, urging ratification of the Constitution. After a new Constitution, intended to replace the ineffectual Articles of Confederation, had been hammered out at the Philadelphia Convention, it was agreed that it would go into effect when nine of the thirteen states had approved it in ratifying conventions. There ensued a nationwide debate over constitutional principles, and the press was inundated with letters condemning or praising the document, among them these articles, signed "Publius." The three men—chief among them Hamilton, who wrote about two-thirds of the essays—addressed the objections of opponents, who feared a tyrannical central government that would supersede states' rights and encroach on individual liberties. All strong nationalists, the essayists argued that, most important, the proposed system would preserve the Union, now in danger of breaking apart, and empower the federal government to act firmly and coherently in the national interest. Conflicting economic and political interests would be reconciled through a representative Congress, whose legislation would be subject to presidential veto and judicial review. This system of checks and balances and the Constitution's clear delineation of the powers of the federal government—few, limited, and defined, as Madison put it—would protect states' rights and, as they saw it, individual rights. The ultimate protection of individual liberties had to wait for later passage of the Bill of Rights, for these men, as their arguments made plain, distrusted what Madison called "the superior force of an interested and overbearing majority." Many of the constitutional provisions they praised were intended precisely to dampen democratic "excesses." The articles, written in the spirit both of propaganda and of logical argument, probably had little influence on public opinion of the day. Nevertheless, the essays, published in book form as The Federalist in 1788, have through the years been widely read and respected for their masterly analysis and interpretation of the Constitution and the principles upon which the government of the United States was established.

Source: The Reader's Companion to American History. Eric Foner and John A. Garraty, Editors. Copyright © 1991 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved.
Source: <http://www.history.com/topics/federalist-papers>

SOURCE of THEME

The permanent Middle School Brochure Contest theme beginning with the 2014-2015 academic term will be "The Foundational Documents of the United States". These documents include the Articles of Confederation, the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the Federalist Papers and the Bill of Rights.

The theme for the Brochure Contest is structured to match up with the Government curricula that is found in the majority of states during the middle school years. The students will be encouraged to pick a particular founding document and produce a brochure within the established criteria. This will eliminate the need to revisit the theme on an annual basis while providing a large amount of flexibility to adapt to the established curricula.

May 13, 2014 email from Mark Anthony, NSSAR Americanism Committee Chairman