

The debates over ratification of the Constitution of the United States of America focused on power given to the national government.

## Ratification Debates

Nine of thirteen states needed to ratify constitution

### Anti-Federalist position

Suspicious of a strong central government

Wanted a bill of rights to protect personal liberties

### Federalist position

Believed that a strong central government was the best way to protect freedom



*The Federalist* was a series of essays, written by Hamilton, Madison, and Jay, supporting the adoption of the Constitution of the United States of America.

The student will demonstrate knowledge of the Constitution of the United States by:  
a) examining the ratification debates and *The Federalist*.