

**Meeting of the Constitutional Convention**  
**Philadelphia**  
**Friday, May 25, 1787**

You will take the identity of a Founding Father, and will have “assistants” to help you prepare and debate the proposed constitution. Your grade will be based upon how well you take on this persona and how well you debate the issues as they would have. You will read their actual conversations for ideas, but you need to prepare statements that explain what they would say in 2023 language. (So DON’T just read their conversations to us....that’s not the assignment!) You should also argue any other relevant information and should jump into other arguments as you see fit. George Washington will keep order, so you must be recognized by her to speak. As tensions rise, REMEMBER your grade may be negatively affected if you YELL OUT without being called upon!

Due to the sensitive nature of these discussions, we will hold our Convention in a locked room with all windows shut. Absolutely no word should leak out to the public or press, as it may hinder our advancement towards our goals if we cannot speak freely. ( 2023 NOTE: Okay, maybe not...but be advised that during the summer in Philadelphia, this was their policy. Temperatures often rose into the high 90s with extremely high humidity....and yes, they were wearing full, formal, 1787 attire....can you imagine? THESE MEETINGS WERE EVERY DAY UNTIL OCTOBER!)

Members in Attendance: and assistant(s)  
(2023 note: there were more members than this, but these debated the most on these issues)

- James Madison, VA: \_\_\_\_\_
- Elbridge Gerry, MA: \_\_\_\_\_
- Roger Sherman, CT: \_\_\_\_\_
- Alexander Hamilton, NY: \_\_\_\_\_
- William Livingston, NJ: \_\_\_\_\_
- Benjamin Franklin, PA: \_\_\_\_\_
- Governour Morris, PA: \_\_\_\_\_
- George Mason, VA: \_\_\_\_\_
- Charles Pinckney, SC: \_\_\_\_\_
- Luther Martin, MD: \_\_\_\_\_
- James Rutledge, SC: \_\_\_\_\_
- Oliver Elsworth, CT: \_\_\_\_\_

### Agenda: 3 Main Issues To Resolve

1. Welcome and call to order, explanation of rules/proceedings
2. Biographical Background and Introductions
3. Issue of Representation: Virginia Plan (presented by James Madison) and New Jersey Plan (presented by William Livingston)
  - a. Debate: Sherman, Gerry, Mason. Hamilton. All others add as appropriate.
4. Issue of Slavery
  - a. Debate: Martin, Rutledge, Sherman, Mason, Elsworth, and Pinckney. All others add comments as appropriate.
5. Issue of a Bill of Rights, to possibly be added to the Constitution
  - a. Debate: Sherman, Mason, Gerry, Pinckney. All others add comments as appropriate.
6. Final vote and remarks
  - a. Franklin
  - b. Morris, Hamilton, Gerry
  - c. Madison

Written portion: Who your person was and a brief background of your delegate, and what they thought about each issue they spoke about. Do you agree with your delegate? Why or why not?

Participation Grade: 20 points

Written Portion: 20 points