**Meeting of the Constitutional Convention**

**Philadelphia**

**Friday, May 25, 1787**

You will take the identity of a Founding Father, and will have an “assistant” 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 2015 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. Mr. Rotondo will keep order, so you must be recognized by him 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. ( 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)

(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 Patterson, NJ:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Benjamin Franklin, PA:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Governour Morris, PA:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

George Mason, VA:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Charles Pinckney, SC:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Luther Martin, MD:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

James Rutledge, SC:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Oliver Elsworth, CT:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# Agenda: 2 Main Issues To Resolve

1. Welcome and call to order, explanation of rules/proceedings
   * Read [Background](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xVIEX08L-zBASZFpOYpw-GvVHeW7YBLigCArT3tlYRs/edit)
2. Biographical Background and Introductions
   * [Biographical Archives](http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/constitution_founding_fathers.html)
   * [Biographical Summaries](http://teachingamericanhistory.org/convention/delegates/)
3. Issue of Representation: Virginia Plan (drafted by James Madison, presented by Edmund Randolph on [May 29th](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/debates_529.asp)) New Jersey Plan (presented by William Paterson on [June 15th](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/debates_615.asp))
   * Debate: Sherman, Gerry, Mason
   * Debate: Hamilton ([link](http://www.usconstitution.net/consttop_ccon.html)) [June 18th](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/debates_618.asp)
4. Issue of Slavery- [June 11th](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/debates_611.asp), [July 9th](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/debates_709.asp), [July 11th](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/debates_711.asp), [July 12th](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/debates_712.asp) (Three-Fifths Compromise)
   * [The Issue of Slavery at the Convention](http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook.cfm?smtID=2&psid=3241)
   * [The Slave Trade Debates](http://blog.consource.org/post/95733046955/the-constitutional-convention-the-slave-trade)
   * Debate: Martin, Rutledge, Sherman, Mason, Elsworth, and Pinckney.
   * All others add comments as appropriate.
5. Final remarks
   * Franklin- Final Speech [September 17th, 1787](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/debates_917.asp) ([rising sun!!](http://www.let.rug.nl/usa/outlines/government-1991/topics/benjamin-franklins-rising-sun.php))

**HELPFUL LINKS:**

[**Madison’s Notes**](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/debcont.asp)

[**Exploring Constitutional Conflicts**](http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/conlaw/convention1787.html)

[**The US Constitution Online**](http://www.usconstitution.net/consttop_ccon.html)

Written portion: Answer Reflection Questions

Participation Grade: 25 points

Written Portion: 25 points