

Massachusetts Grade 8 Civics Local-Level Classroom Performance Task

Topic 2: Development of the U.S. Government

Summary of Local-Level Classroom Task and Standards Alignment

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Local-Level Classroom Performance Tasks should be completed after regular instruction has occurred for the Topic being addressed. These classroom tasks are designed to help prepare students for the State-Level Performance Tasks. The Department will not collect work or scores for the Local-Level Tasks.

For this task, **Topic 2: Development of the U.S. Government**, students will use the sources in Handout 1 to analyze, discuss, and explain the development of the U.S. Constitution. The standards that will be addressed are listed below.

Standards Addressed

Practice Standards

- 8.PS.1 Demonstrate civic knowledge, skills, and dispositions.
- 8.PS.3 Organize information and data from multiple primary and secondary sources.
- 8.PS.4 Analyze the purpose and point of view of each source; distinguish opinion from fact.
- 8.PS.6 Argue or explain conclusions, using valid reasoning and evidence.

Content Standards

- 8.T2.2 Analyze the weaknesses of the national government under the Articles of Confederation; and describe the crucial events (e.g., Shays' Rebellion) leading to the Constitutional Convention.
- 8.T2.3 Identify the various leaders of the Constitutional Convention and analyze the major issues (e.g., distribution of political power, rights of individuals, representation and rights of states, slavery) they debated and how the issues were resolved.
- 8.T2.4 Compare and contrast key ideas debated between the Federalists and Anti-Federalists over ratification of the Constitution (e.g., federalism, factions, checks and balances, independent judiciary, republicanism, limited government). Note: Important topics of individual Federalist Papers: Federalist 10—factions; Federalist 9—strong union; Federalist 39—republican government; Federalist 51—three branches of government independent of each other to ensure liberty; Federalist 78—importance of an independent judicial branch and judicial review.
- 8.T2.5 Summarize the Preamble and each article in the Constitution, and the rights enumerated in the Bill of Rights; explain the reasons for the addition of the Bill of Rights to the Constitution in 1791.