

Activity 2**Document-Based Activity****Debating the Constitution****Writing a Document-Based Essay**

HISTORICAL CONTEXT In May 1787 delegates met in Philadelphia to revise the Articles of Confederation. By September these men had written a Constitution, thereby proposing a new system of government. Each state then organized a ratifying convention to vote on the new document. Meanwhile, the Constitution was fiercely debated in the press, in public meetings, and on street corners. By July 1788, despite opposition from those who feared that a central government would have too much power, 11 states had ratified the document—two more states than necessary for it to become law. By 1790 all 13 states had approved the Constitution.

TASK Using information from the documents and your knowledge of American history, write an essay in which you:

- Explain why some Americans opposed the Constitution.
- Discuss how supporters of the Constitution won the battle for ratification.

Part B

DIRECTIONS Using the information from the documents provided and your knowledge of American history, write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, a body of several paragraphs, and a conclusion. In the body of the essay, use examples from at least *four* documents. Support your response with relevant facts, examples, and details. Include additional outside information.

GUIDELINES

In your essay, be sure to:

- Address all aspects of the **Task** by accurately analyzing and interpreting at least *four* documents.
- Incorporate information from the documents in the body of the essay.
- Incorporate relevant outside information.
- Support the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details.
- Use a logical and clear plan of organization.
- Introduce the theme by establishing a framework that is beyond a simple statement of the **Task** or **Historical Context**.
- Conclude the essay with a summation of the theme.