

Teaching with Primary Sources Lesson Outline

Grade Level: High School (9-10)

Standard(s) or Objectives: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.1: Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, attending to such features as the date and origin of the information.
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary describing political, social, or economic aspects of history/social science.

Library of Congress or Morris Special Collections Resources:



Publius (James Madison), "The Federalist No. X," 1787

<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/treasures/trt049.html>

Specific page used:

<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/treasures/images/vc6.7a.jpg>

Topic Background:

In the ensuing debate over adoption of the Constitution, James Madison teamed with Alexander Hamilton and John Jay of New York to write a masterful dissection and analysis of the system of government presented in the Constitution. The eighty-five Federalist articles were originally published in the daily newspapers in New York City as arguments aimed at the anti-Federal forces in that state, but their intended scope was far larger.

Excerpted from: <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/treasures/trt049.html>

Source(s) Used:

James Madison's Federalist no. 10 is one of the most important and enduring statements of American political theory. Its reasoned statement explains what an expanding nation might do if it accepted the basic premise of majority rule, a balanced government of three separate branches, and a commitment to balance all the diverse interests through a system of checks and balances.

Excerpted from: <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/treasures/trt049.html>

Answer Key:

Question 1: C

Question2: D

Publius (James Madison), “The Federalist No. X,” 1787 [Excerpt]

AMONG the numerous advantages promised by a well constructed Union, none deserves to be more accurately developed than its tendency to break and control the violence of **faction**. The friend of popular governments never finds himself so much alarmed for their character and fate, as when he contemplates their propensity to this dangerous vice...The instability, injustice, and confusion introduced into the public councils, have, in truth, been the mortal diseases under which popular governments have everywhere perished; as they continue to be the favorite and fruitful topics from which the adversaries to liberty derive their most specious declamations. The valuable improvements made by the American constitutions on the popular models, both ancient and modern, cannot certainly be too much admired...Complaints are everywhere heard from our most considerate and virtuous citizens, equally the friends of public and private faith, and of public and personal liberty, that our governments are too unstable, that the public good is disregarded in the conflicts of rival parties, and that measures are too often decided, not according to the rules of justice and the rights of the minor party, but by the superior force of an interested and overbearing majority. However anxiously we may wish that these complaints had no foundation, the evidence, of known facts will not permit us to deny that they are in some degree true. It will be found... that some of the distresses under which we labor have been erroneously charged on the operation of our governments; but it will be found, at the same time, that other causes will not alone account for many of our heaviest misfortunes; and, particularly, for that prevailing and increasing distrust of public engagements, and alarm for private rights, which are echoed from one end of the continent to the other. These must be chiefly, if not wholly, effects of the unsteadiness and injustice with which a **factious** spirit has tainted our public administrations.

Questions:

- 1) Which of the following text best supports the claim that Publius supported a strong, unified, central government? (CCSS-RH9-10.1)
 - a. “The instability, injustice, and confusion introduced into the public councils, have, in truth, been the mortal diseases under which popular governments have everywhere perished.”
 - b. “The valuable improvements made by the American constitutions on the popular models, both ancient and modern, cannot certainly be too much admired.”
 - c. “AMONG the numerous advantages promised by a well constructed Union, none deserves to be more accurately developed than its tendency to break and control the violence of faction.”
 - d. “...for that prevailing and increasing distrust of public engagements, and alarm for private rights, which are echoed from one end of the continent to the other.”

- 2) Which of the following statements best describes Publius’ use of the term: **faction** or **factious**? (CCSS-RH-9-10.4)
 - a. The newly created United States had separated from Great Britain.
 - b. The governments in the former colonies worked well together, under one, centralized government.
 - c. Popular governments were supported by divisions in political parties and the government itself.
 - d. The government in the former colonies was threatened by political divisions that caused instability.