**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 2019 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. Mrs. Roser & 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. ( 2019 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 September!)

Members in Attendance: and assistant(s)

(2019 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 Rutlidge, SC:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

George Washington, VA:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

James Wilson, PA: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# Agenda: 3 Main Issues To Resolve

1. Welcome and call to order, explanation of rules/proceedings
2. Biographical Background and Introductions \*
   1. You must have prepared remarks for our Convention in class – this will be a general biography of who you are, what state you are representing and your goals of the Convention.
3. Issue of Representation:
   1. Virginia Plan (presented by James Madison)
   2. New Jersey Plan (presented by William Livingston)
   3. Debate of representation issue:
      1. Key Contributors - Sherman, Gerry, Mason, Wilson use p. 84-92 for ideas. Hamilton, look at section beginning p. 140-141 for ideas. All others add as appropriate. ALL FOUNDERS SHOULD JUMP INTO DISCUSSION!
4. Issue of Slavery
   1. Debate:
      1. Key Contributors: Martin, Rutlidge, Sherman, Mason, Elsworth, and Pinckney, use section beginning on p. 279-283 for ideas. All others add comments as appropriate.
5. Issue of a Bill of Rights, to possibly be added to the Constitution
   1. Debate:
      1. Key Contributors: Sherman, Mason, Gerry, Pinckney, use p. 331-338 for ideas. All others add comments as appropriate.
6. Final vote and remarks
   1. Franklin, section beginning p. 339 - 340
   2. Morris, Hamilton, Gerry, section beginning on p. 342 - 344
      1. PLEAD YOUR CASES BEFORE THE VOTE IS TAKEN
   3. Madison: last comment in the session before the vote on p. 344

**After the Convention - Written portion INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENT – due to google classroom by 7am on September 11th or 12th:**

* Who your person was and a brief background of your delegate (1 paragraph)
  + Am I from a large state or a small state? (How do I feel about the New Jersey Plan? the Virginia Plan, the Great Compromise?
  + Am I from a Northern state or a Southern state? (How do I feel about the 3/5ths Compromise?)
  + What characteristics are unique to me? (Age, Schooling, Occupation, Prior Political Experience, Family, Past Experiences, Current Political views)
  + What role did I play at the Convention?
* What they thought about each issue. (2-3 paragraphs) THIS NEEDS TO BE SPECIFIC!
  + Make sure that you explain why the delegate probably took the side of the issue that he did – was it regional, social class, or some other factor that made him so committed to his point of view?
  + Even if your delegate was not on the agenda to speak regarding a specific issue, still provide an explanation about which side he probably supported and why.
* Do you agree with your delegate and how he participated/voted at the Convention? Why or why not?

Participation Grade: 20 points (Skill Development) – Grade given in class on 9/9 or 9/10

Written Portion: 20 points (Content Mastery) – due to google classroom by 7 am on 9/11 or 9/12

Let their be Compromise Worksheet: 10 points employability (due Convention day – 9/9 or 9/10)

**Resources to Help:**

Specific Page #’s comes from *The Constitutional Convention and the Formation of the Union* by Winton Solberg. These pages are on our class website.

Meet the Delegates: <http://teachingamericanhistory.org/convention/delegates/>

Madison’s Preface or Day by Day Summary: <https://teachingamericanhistory.org/resources/convention/debates/>

Virginia Plan: <https://teachingamericanhistory.org/static/convention/themes/2.html>

New Jersey Plan: <https://teachingamericanhistory.org/static/convention/themes/3.html>