

The Constitution

Of
The United States of America

The Articles of Confederation proved to provide an unsatisfactory government. The government that had been created, although serving a purpose, did not have the power or the instruments of power to deal with problems that faced the new independent 'nation'. However, that government did have one factor which was a great concern of the former colonists – it could not be oppressive due to that lack of power and authority. Both of these considerations were to be taken into account with the design of the new government.

With the repeal of the Articles at a convention which did not initially plan on anything more than modification (repeal was a *dangerous* step by the way...it was a clear admission of failure and weakness, one of which our former mother country or some other nation could have tried to take advantage), the convention was determined to design a new framework for government. This new government had a division of power that prevented abuse by design. Although not foolproof, it was a government that *did* have the power to deal with problems and issues.

As a small group, your task is to present the various aspects of this new government in the formats below. Each group must examine/investigate their assigned topic thoroughly, and then decide how your information is to be presented. Each group is to create...

- ◆ a magazine cover, with typical photo and splashed article teasers, banners, etc.
- ◆ a CD jewel case, with cover design on the front and song titles on the back panel
- ◆ lyrics for a song that deals with some aspect of your topic (bonus points if you perform!)
- ◆ a poster that is in a symbolic shape and contains info that clarifies the role, rules, etc. for your topic

A 10-15 minute presentation will accompany each topic and your group must be prepared to answer questions (your presentation will also be graded, on a rubric to be distributed).

Assignments:

House of Representatives: (students) _____

Senate: (students) _____

President: (students) _____

Supreme Court: (students) _____

Powers of Government: (students) _____

Your work is expected to be of high standards. Do not settle for a simple reporting of data – provide some significance, some analysis, some point of view, some conclusion/thesis.

Questions?