Once the Constitution is written it must go to the states for their approval. People will be able to vote for or against the Constitution.

FEDERALISM – a system of government in which power is shared between the states and the national government.

Two groups begin to develop:

1) FEDERALISTS – want the Constitution to pass as is

2) ANTI-FEDERALISTS – do NOT want the Constitution to pass as is

The Constitution is awesome! I think everyone should rush out and vote for it!
1) Supported taking some powers from the states and giving them to the national government

2) Wanted to divide powers among the different branches of government

3) Wanted a single person to lead the executive branch

The Constitution is not worth the paper it is printed on! Where is the Bill of Rights?

1) Wanted the states to keep the most important powers

2) Wanted the legislative branch to have more power than the executive branch
3) Feared a single person in the executive branch might become a king or tyrant.

4) Believed a Bill of Rights need to be added to the Constitution to protect people’s rights.

Both sides published their viewpoints in newspapers, pamphlets, etc.

The Federalist Papers were written by such men as James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay.

Federalists had an advantage because most newspapers supported their cause.

THE FEDERALIST PAPERS – a series of essays which supported the Federalists viewpoint (wanted the Constitution to pass).
By June of 1788 a total of 9 states had ratified (passed) the Constitution. 9 states were required to officially make it the legal form of government.

Two very important states though, Virginia and New York, had not yet passed it and were needed.

Two important Virginians, GEORGE MASON and PATRICK HENRY were against the Constitution.

Virginia finally passes it once they are convinced it will soon add a Bill of Rights.

New York passes it once they hear Virginia had.

Rhode Island is the last state to officially ratify it in 1790.

BILL OF RIGHTS – the first ten amendments to the Constitution. Insures personal rights to each U.S. citizen.
THE END