

Student Handout 3: Questions/Issues at the Constitutional Convention

Name _____

State that I represent at the Constitutional Convention

Directions: For this simulation, you are assuming the role of a delegate (representative) of the people of your state in the summer of 1787 in Philadelphia. After consulting with the other delegates from your state in small group, answer the following questions in your role as this delegate. This is NOT how you as a student today would answer.

Questions/Issues

1. How should representation in Congress be decided? How many representatives should each state get?
2. Should the federal government be allowed to regulate (make rules for) the importation of enslaved persons into the states from outside the country?
3. If representation in Congress *is* based on a state's population (i.e. the higher the state's population, the more representatives that state would have in Congress), should the number of enslaved persons count in the state's total population for purposes of representation? Or, should only the number of free persons count in the state's population for representation?
4. How should the executive power of government (implementing and enforcing the laws, interacting with foreign nations, protecting the health and safety of the people) be handled? Should there be one person to serve as the executive or a small group? How should the executive (or executives) be selected?