

Advanced Placement U.S. Government & Politics
George Washington High School
Mr. James Towle
Summer Reading Assignment

Suggested Reading: Beeman, Richard. *Plain, Honest Men: The Making of The American Constitution*. The Random House Publishing Group. New York, NY. 2010.

The Assignment: You will write a journal from the perspective of ONE of the framers of the Constitution listed below:

- George Washington
- James Madison
- Charles Pickney
- Benjamin Franklin
- Alexander Hamilton
- Gouverneur Morris
- John Rutledge
- James Wilson
- Elbridge Gerry
- George Mason
- John Dickinson
- Luther Martin

Your journal should be a personal narrative written from the perspective of the Founding Father you chose.

Every journal entry should also include encounters with other Founding Fathers. Your journal MUST have at least 10 entries with 2-3 paragraphs. All journal entries must convey the various struggles, frustrations, proposals, and any major to minor excursions that occurred for your Founding Father during that fateful summer in 1787.

This journal MUST be typed in Times New Roman or Calibri font (size 11).

This writing assignment will be due NO LATER than the end of the first week of school (That Friday). So please do not procrastinate with this noble endeavor. Treat this as a case study into the subtle emotions and details that went into the framing of the Constitution.

Note From the Teacher: Have you ever wondered what it would have been like to be in the room when the Constitution was being framed? This book literally puts you in the middle of the action. You will get a third person narrative on how tensions and debates ensued over the framing of the most famous document in World History. Insults were exchanged, intellectual arguments were passed, and drinking and partying ensued in the after-hours. This book will be used during the course.

Summary: In May 1787, in an atmosphere of crisis, delegates met in Philadelphia to design a radically new form of government. Distinguished historian Richard Beeman captures as never before the dynamic of the debate and the characters of the men who labored that historic summer. Virtually all of the issues in dispute—the extent of presidential power, the nature of federalism, and, most explosive of all, the role of slavery—have continued to provoke conflict throughout our nation's history. This unprecedented book takes readers behind the scenes to show how the world's most enduring constitution was forged through conflict, compromise, and fragile consensus. As Gouverneur Morris, delegate of Pennsylvania, noted: "While some have boasted it as a work from Heaven, others have given it a less righteous origin. I have many reasons to believe that it is the work of plain, honest men."

