

Teaching American History II

READ HISTORY Year 2

The American Constitution: Origins and Influences

Workshop #1

Oct. 29 -30 @ Christiana Hilton

GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR SELECTED DOCUMENTS: (Developed by Historian, James Magee)

Documents Selected by James Magee
(See Table of Contents)

QUESTIONS:

1. What major themes appearing in John Locke's Second Treatise can also be found in Thomas Paine's Common Sense?
2. What major "Enlightenment" principles thrived and hence were incorporated into the "Founding Period" of the American Constitution?
3. The "Articles of Confederation" were abandoned after only seven years. What was wrong with our first constitution?
4. James Madison at first opposed a Bill of Rights in part because he believed that a "well constructed Union" would protect individual freedom against "tyranny of the majority." What structural factors of the new Constitution protect against such tyranny? [He discusses this in the Federalist papers.]

TAHIII/ RH YR 2
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Selected Documents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Excerpts from John Locke's *Second Treatise on Government* (1690) [Chs, II, V, VII, IX, XI, & XII]
2. Declaration and Resolves of the First Continental Congress" (1774)
3. Excerpts from Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* (1776)
4. "Declaration of Independence" (1776)
5. "The Articles of Confederation" (1781)
6. *Federalist Papers*, #'s 10, 47, 48, & 51 (1787)
7. Bibliography for further reading (classics and contemporary works)