

Handouts A–B Answer Keys

Handout A: How Does the Constitution Protect Liberty? Answer Key

1. The First Amendment guarantees that you can associate with whomever you like. The Third and Fourth Amendments promise that the government cannot intrude into your home arbitrarily and without legal cause. The Fifth Amendment assures that you can keep silent if accused of a crime. The Founders believed that these rights should be protected, so they decided to list them in the Bill of Rights.
2. Due process rights protect personal liberty in that they check government power, and they entitle all citizens to fair treatment by the government. Due process rights that are protected include: the right to a speedy, public trial by a jury; no person shall be tried for the same crime twice; no person should be forced to testify against himself; no person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property; and all persons should be equally protected under the law.
3. Answers will vary. Accept reasoned responses.

Handout B: Excerpts from Federalist No. 10, 51, 55, and 57 Answer Key

Federalist No. 10

1. Madison wrote that a chief cause of instability, injustice, and confusion that threatened the public good is a factious spirit.
2. Madison's definition of faction is a number of citizens, whether amounting to a majority or a minority of the whole, who are united and actuated by some common impulse of passion, or of interest, adverse to the rights of other citizens, or to the permanent and aggregate interests of the community.

Federalist No. 51

1. Accept reasoned responses. Students might say, if people were as good as angels, they would not need a government at all.
2. According to Madison, two essentials in establishing a government of men over men are that government must control the governed, and it must control itself.
3. The primary control over the government is the people themselves.
4. Madison wrote that an extended republic is the form of self-government most likely to secure justice and protect the general good. He explained that in an extended republic with many different interests, parties, and groups, it would be hard for any group to obtain a coalition large enough that it would enact unjust laws and violate the rights of minorities, harming the public good.

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Federalist No. 55

1. Qualities in human nature that inspired Madison’s confidence that republican self-government could survive may have included such virtues as courage, wisdom, generosity, self-sacrifice, respect, responsibility, perseverance, commitment to justice, and others. Accept reasoned responses.
2. Madison wrote that republican government such as that established by the U.S. Constitution would inspire and require both the people and those they elected as leaders to conduct themselves with wisdom, virtue, and justice. Therefore, he was encouraged that “chains of despotism” would not be necessary to “restrain them from destroying and devouring one another”.

Federalist No. 57

1. Madison wrote that two main goals of every political constitution should be to elect leaders who possess wisdom and virtue, and to enact effective precautions to keep them virtuous.
2. Madison wrote that the best way for a society to have wise and virtuous leaders was election by the people. He expected that the people would insist on worthy elected leaders.
3. In these passages, Madison referred to the common good of society using these terms:
No. 10: public good; permanent and aggregate interests of the community
No. 51: general good
No. 57: common good