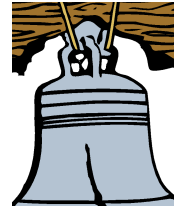


The Constitutional Convention: Day One

Today you will be re-enacting one of the most important events in U.S. history – the Constitutional Convention. You will play the role of one of the actual delegates to the convention. It is absolutely necessary that you follow the thoughts and beliefs of your character and state. If you don't the re-enactment will not work (and I'll know who to blame!)



Part 1: The Welcoming Party

1. Take a few minutes to mingle with the other delegates.
2. Be sure to greet them by name and in a very formal manner. You will not say “Yo, yo, yo, G. Dubz! You are rockin’ that hair today bro!” instead you would say “Mr. Washington of Virginia, it is an honor to meet you. How does this day find you sir?”
3. When instructed sit in your assigned state area.

Journal 1: Who did you meet at the party? How did it feel to greet them in such a proper fashion?

Part 2: The Vow

4. When instructed, raise your right hand and repeat the vow of secrecy.

Journal 2: Why was it so important to have a vow of secrecy?

Part 3: Preparing for Debate

5. Review your role card for information about your delegate’s view on the issue. Be prepared to share this information with others.

Journal 3: What does your delegate think about how states should be represented and why?

6. Go to the corner representing your position and discuss the issue with the other delegates there.

Journal 4: What do you think is the best argument in favor of your proposal? Explain.

7. Return to your delegation and discuss your position.

Journal 5: Did all the delegates of your state agree to one proposal? Explain.

Part 4: The Debate

8. Follow the directions on the screen to present your opinion.

Journal 6: How did it feel to have your proposal fail?

9. Meet with your fellow state delegates and come up with a compromise you can all support.

Journal 7: What compromise did you come up with?

10. Decide among your state delegation whether you will support Mr. Sherman’s Compromise.

Journal 8: What was the final compromise reached? Do you think it was a good compromise?

The Constitutional Convention: Day Two

Today you will be re-enacting two more huge decisions made at the Constitutional Convention. It is absolutely necessary that you follow the thoughts and beliefs of your character and state.



Part 1: Looking Back

1. Take your seat with your state delegation. Greet them formally.
2. Review the log of our last meeting by reading pages 126 & 127 in your book.

Journal 1: How did the Virginia plan determine representation? How did the New Jersey plan determine representation? How did the Great Compromise determine representation?

Part 2: Preparing for Debate

3. Review your STATE card for information about your STATE's view on the issue. Be prepared to share this information with others.

Journal 2: What does your state think about how slaves should be counted in population?

4. Go to the corner representing your position and discuss the issue with the other delegates there.

Journal 3: What do you think is the best argument to support your state's position? Explain.

Part 3: The Debate

5. Follow the directions on the screen to present your opinion.
6. Meet with your fellow state delegates and come up with a compromise all states can support.

Journal 4: What compromise did you come up with?

7. Decide among your state delegation which compromise plan you will support.

Journal 5: What was the final compromise reached? Do you think it was a good compromise?

8. Read page 128 to see what really happened.

Journal 6: What was the 3/5s Compromise? Do you think it was a good compromise for the delegates?

Part 4: The Final Debate

9. You're a pro at this by now. Just follow the directions on-screen for this final debate.

Journal 7: What did the convention decide on the presidency? Was it a good decision? Explain.

Part 5: The Signing

10. Check your role card to see if you signed the Constitution. If you did come up and sign it. If you didn't then sneer and boo at those who do.

Journal 8: How did it feel to sign (or not) the Constitution? Why was this decision (to sign or not) so important?