

CONSTITUTION 101

Module 3: Road to the Convention
3.5 Activity Guide

FEAR OF FACTIONS AND MOBS

In this activity, you will learn more about the founding generation's fear of factions and mobs and how one function of a constitution is to structure covering so that it might slow down the political process, cool emotions, curb passions, frustrate factions, and promote deliberation and compromise. The ultimate goal? To craft a government that gets better results—results driven by reason (not passion) and promoting the common good (not factional self-interest).

Read excerpts from the [Primary Source: Federalist No. 10 and Federalist No. 55](#) and answer the following questions. Be prepared to discuss as a class.

How would you describe Madison's vision? Do you find it persuasive? What are some of its strengths and weaknesses for his time? Are they the same today?

Consider Madison's arguments today. What challenges do modern developments like social media present to Madison's vision?

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Does Madison provide us with a vision that might address them?

