

Scene 1: Did they approve of the U.S. Constitution at first?

HAMILTON: The Constitution is great just the way it is. There are plenty of protections for citizens in it already, and if you don't like something in it, you can always amend it.

JEFFERSON: The rights of citizens should be written out exactly. The Constitution needs a Bill of Rights, and if it is passed without one, we will make an amendment to add one!

HAMILTON: Good, you do that!

JEFFERSON: I will!

Scene 2: Did they want to help the rich or help the poor (like farmers)?

HAMILTON: Look, in any country in the world you have the few and the many. The few are the rich people, the other is everybody else. Most people are stupid. That is why the rich and powerful should control the government. Since they're already rich and powerful, they have no reason to abuse their power for their own gain. They would keep the government running well.

JEFFERSON: What? That's insane. Government is for the people... all the people, not just the rich. The workers of America are God's chosen people, the most honest and hardworking in all the world. The poor, especially farmers, need the help of government.

Scene 3: What powers should the government have?

JEFFERSON: The government should only have the powers that are listed in the Constitution. Anything else would give the national government too much power and put the rights of the people in danger.

HAMILTON: The "elastic clause" of the Constitution says that Congress can pass any law that is "necessary and proper" to do. That means we don't have to follow the Constitution exactly, we can stretch it to make this country stronger.

Scene 4: Strict construction or loose construction?

JEFFERSON: The Antifederalists believe in strict construction, which means the Constitution should be followed exactly as it is written.

HAMILTON: The Federalists believe in loose construction, which means the national government should make whatever laws it needs to make, even if it doesn't say it in the Constitution.

Scene 5: Should America create a national bank?

HAMILTON: As I've been saying, even though it doesn't say anything about a national bank in the Constitution, I think it's the only way to make this country's economy work is to create a national bank.

JEFFERSON: We can't just go outside of what the Constitution says whenever we want. No national bank!

Scene 6: Do we need protective tariffs?

HAMILTON: We need to promote U.S. industries and help them make more money. But how are they supposed to make money if Americans are buying cheaper stuff from other countries? We need to put a protective tariff, which is a kind of tax, on the imported goods that come in from other countries. This means that the imported goods will be more expensive, so people will buy cheaper American goods.

JEFFERSON: That may sound like a good idea--if you're from the North. In my home state of Virginia, and throughout the rest of the South, we make our money the old fashioned way--agriculture. Farming. These tariffs are designed to help the factories in the North, not the people of the South. Also, why is it government's job to help businesses make money? It doesn't say that in the Constitution. If the government gives too much help, industries are going to always come begging the government for money.