

## Lesson- Assessing the Instructions to the Delegates to the Philadelphia Convention

Primary Documents:

“Instructions” for the state

delegations/Use: [http://history.wisc.edu/csac/documentary\\_resources/delegate\\_instructions.htm](http://history.wisc.edu/csac/documentary_resources/delegate_instructions.htm)

Virginia, NJ, Penn, NC, Delaware, Georgia, New York, Mass, SC, Conn, Maryland, NH

Assign each student to read the instructions for one state

\*\*Depending on class size, will most likely have two students assigned to each state - 24 total. If less than 24 can either allow some students to work on a state by themselves or remove states to reach the correct class number (i.e. only use nine states if have 18 students).

Each student is to summarize the directions given to their state delegation. After time is given for students to read/summarize have them find their “partner” that was assigned the same state. Have students compare/contrast/combine what they found with their partner. Should develop one summary to share with the class.

Have students share their findings with the class, while also taking notes on what directions were given to the other states.

When all states have shared their “instructions”, students should look for at least one other state to pair up with based on similar “instructions”. Each small group should be prepared to discuss with the class why their state “instructions” were similar/why they joined together.

List the “instructions” provided by the small groups. Should have between 3-5 sets of “instructions” provided by the class.

In-class assignment - collect the notes taken by each student about the other states to grade the students based on being “on-task”/participation grade.

Out of class assignment - Have students look at the list of instructions that was given to the different states. Reflect on which states best followed their instructions based on the outcome of the Constitutional Convention and explain how the new constitution reflected the instructions of their states. Reflect on which states worst followed their instructions and explain whether or not these state delegates were “disobeying” their states and whether or not they should have signed the constitution based on this.