Constitutional Convention - Letter to the Editor
8th Grade Lesson

As we've learned, the drafting of the Constitution was no easy task. The framers convened in the warm summer months, during a tumultuous time in America, to try and create a solid document on which our country could base its government. Through their perseverance, dedication and persistence, they succeeded. Our Constitution still remains as the foundation of our government today, some 200+ years later.

But did they really? Yes, we are "still standing". But the document itself? It's messy, hence the need for amendments. It's pro-slavery, as seen by allowing slave states and the slave trade to continue. And some might argue, it's outdated, as some of the amendments don't really apply anymore in this day and age.

We've spent the last two weeks exploring the Constitution. We've looked at primary sources, we've studied current events that connect current conflicts to the Constitution, and we've heard expert opinions. What do you think? Is this a Glorious Document, worthy of praise? Or is it an outdated, pro-slavery piece of rhetoric?

Using evidence to support your argument, write a letter to the editor of "The Boston Gazette" circa 1787 or "The Boston Globe" circa 2018. Choose one of the following points of view: Federalist, Anti-Federalist, South Carolina Slave Holder, New York Merchant, Benjamin Franklin, Daniel Shay, Northern Woman, Modern Day person or other per teacher approval.

Your argument should include:

- Background information about the document itself (What it specifically includes)
- The specific concern you have (This could be to praise or bash a piece of it)
- Evidence to support your argument
- A proposed solution to your concern (Arguments should have some call to action)

Use the attached paper to help organize your argument.

Your letter to the editor is due on _____.

Point of View _____

Your claim (Glorious Document or Outdated, Pro-Slavery Rhetoric?)

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Background information about the Constitution, specifically how it applies to you

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Evidence

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Your concerns

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Your proposed solutions

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Organize these ideas into a letter. A suggested way to breakdown your letter is:

Dear _____
Paragraph one: Introduce yourself and include your claim
Paragraph two: Explain features of the Constitution, making sure to highlight those things that specifically applies to your concerns - Could reference evidence/sources here
Paragraph three: Discuss your concerns - Could reference evidence/sources here
Paragraph four: Discuss your proposed solutions - Could reference evidence/sources here
Closing