

## Quick Synopsis/Comparison - Required Foundation Documents

Year	Document	On the topic of where power resides (or should reside)	Main Message	Main Author
1776	Declaration of Independence	Pulled power/authority away from a historical monarchy	Lockian philosophy: the fundamental message was 'King, you have failed to govern us properly, and so we take <u>back our consent</u> to be governed.'	Thomas Jefferson
1777	Articles of Confederation	Pro-strong state government(s) Against any centralized federal power which might influence states	State governments need to be strong and independent of a centralized national government	Continental Congress
1787	Federalist nr.10	Arguing in support of the Constitution (a strong centralized national government)	National union is a safeguard against domestic faction and insurrection Faction is inevitable (so long as men hold different opinions, different wealth and own different property, they will align with those who are similar to them) Federalist 10 is often cited as evidence that the Founders did not intend for American politics to be partisan.	"Publius" (Madison)
1787	Brutus nr.I	Wanted power to remain with the states. Intended to discourage support for the proposed Constitution	People sacrifice their liberties by allowing for a powerful federal government "Once people part with power (give it to others), they seldom resume it again but by force." Argues that a free republic can not exist in such a large territory as the United States, fearing tyranny would result.	"Brutus" (author unknown)
1788	Federalist nr.51	"Arguing in support of the Constitution (a strong centralized national government)"  This focused on Checks-and-Balances, and the potential for political factions	Structure of government must furnish the proper Checks and Balances between the different departments. "Liberty" would directly result from the implementation of checks and balances. Government branches need to be independent from one another. <i>**This is the 4th most cited document in American judicial proceedings</i>	"Publius" (Madison)
1788	Federalist nr.70	Arguing in support of the Constitution (a strong centralized national government) Focused on the Executive	A unitary executive (president) is necessary for the well being and durability of a nation.	"Publius" (Hamilton)
1788	Federalist nr.78	Arguing in support of the Constitution (a strong centralized national government) Focused on the Courts	The Judicial branch would be the weakest of the three branches because it had "no influence over either the sword or the purse", and only has judgement. Discussed Judicial Review, arguing the courts have the duty to determine whether acts of Congress are constitutional and to following the Constitution when there is inconsistency. Hamilton viewed this as a protection against abuse of power by Congress.	"Publius" (Hamilton)
1788	Constitution of the United States (including Amendments)	Pro-strong federal government <u>The Constitution was a reaction against the weakness and failure of the Articles of Confederation</u>	Intro pluralism Intro term limits Intro checks-and-balances Intro separation-of-powers Intro federalism Intro Civil Liberties and Civil Rights	Philadelphia Convention (notably James Madison)
1963	Letters from a Birmingham Jail	Advocated for people to take nonviolent action.	The letter defends the strategy of nonviolent resistance to racism. Argues that people have a moral responsibility to break unjust laws and to take direct action rather than wait potentially forever for justice to come through the courts. "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."	Martin Luther King Jr