

Flipped Assignment: Creating a Constitution

Yale University: Joanne Freeman

Flip teaching is a form of blended learning which encompasses any use of Internet technology to leverage the learning in a classroom, so a teacher can spend more time interacting with students instead of lecturing.

1. Go to the Open Yale Courses website at: <http://oyc.yale.edu/> Yale University offers many free online courses for people to take.
2. At the top of the page select 'Courses' then select 'History'.
3. Scroll down to 'American Revolution' by Joanne Freeman.
4. Read the course description and then select 'View Class Sessions'. Scroll down and select 'Lecture 23 Creating a Constitution'.
5. You need to watch the entire lecture, which is 44 minutes long. Take notes and view this as your day's class lecture. You will need to answer the following questions for class discussion tomorrow.
 1. Why does Dr. Freeman, and most other historians posit that the Constitution was not inevitable? Elaborate.
 2. Using the example of the debates in the Connecticut House, what were some of the fears of those opposed to calling a Constitutional convention, and what were the arguments against these fears?
 3. Why does Dr. Freeman assert that the men who attended the Constitutional convention were a "self-selecting group"? How did this shape the way Convention progressed?
 4. What were the main aspects of the Madison-Randolph 'Virginia Plan'?
 5. What were the main aspects of the 'New Jersey Plan'? Why did Alexander Hamilton, a hero of the American Revolution praise the British system of government?
 6. Why, according to Freeman, do all of the debates on the Constitution come down to representation, slavery, and the executive branch?