**WELCOME TO THE 1787 CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION**

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Delegates representing the states have met in Philadelphia to create a new central government. One of the issues that needs to be resolved is how representation in the legislature will be determined. Your side supports the **New Jersey Plan / Virginia Plan** (circle one) and you feel the other plan is unacceptable. You need to try to convince the supporters of the other plan to vote for your plan, but the ultimate goal is to keep the 13 states together as one country. By the end of this convention, your groups need to reach an agreement that will establish the new U.S. Congress.

The simulation will be graded as follows: **Everyone must participate!!!** The simulation is worth 15 points. If your groups work out a plan that does not significantly favor either side, each member of the group who participated will receive 15 points. If one side gets a good deal more for their plan than the other side, the “winning” plan could receive up to 25 points, and the losing plan could receive as little as 10 points. If your groups are unable to reach an agreement, then each side may receive as little as **ZERO** points!

Members of both groups need to draft any agreement they make on paper, and all agreeing members must sign. If you choose not to sign your groups’ agreement, you must turn in a paragraph or two explaining why you chose not to sign.

**Step 1: Organizing** In your group, share the reasons you developed in support of each of the issues below, and organize them into a cohesive argument you will present to the other side.

Issue 1: You feel Congress should be made up of how many houses? \_\_\_\_\_ List your arguments below.

Issue 2: How do you feel the representatives in Congress should be chosen? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

List your arguments below.

Issue 3: How should the number of representatives each state receives be determined? List your arguments below.

**Step 2: Presenting** When both groups are ready, pull your seats together to create a presentation forum. Multiple members of your team will present your ideas to the other side. Write down the other side’s ideas in the spaces below.

Issue 1: Number of houses

Issue 2: Selection of Representatives

Issue 3: Number of representatives

**Step 3:** **Huddle up** Get back into your group and discuss the other plan’s ideas. Critique their arguments/create counter arguments, and develop new ideas in support of your plan.

**Step 4.** **Debate** Present again to other group. Write down their arguments. Then open floor for organized debating- take turns, listen to each other. Take notes.

**Step 5:** **Huddle up** Reconvene in your group, improve arguments, consider possible compromises: list below. You can still win, so try to get the other side to agree to compromises that favor your position.

**Step 6:** **Debate/compromise** Continue debate and propose possible compromises. Consider negotiating.

**Step 7:** Repeat steps 5 and 6 until an agreement is reached.

**Step 8: Draft the Agreement**, All agreeing members must sign. Be sure to print your name under NJ group or VA group. If you don’t sign, write up a dissent explaining why. You better be right!