

PS 104 Introduction to American Politics
Week Two: Foundations—The Constitution
Sept. 11-16, 2008

Name: _____

This worksheet is intended to facilitate discussion and to help you think about some of the questions from the lectures and readings at this point in the course. You will work in groups and then we will discuss each question as a class.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of having a strong central government? What do the Federalist Papers contribute to this debate?

What explains the durability of the Constitution? Do you think it is good to regularly amend the Constitution to reflect changing values and address current problems, or should the Constitution be changed only rarely? How does the Kammen piece relate to this issue?

What is the “Liberal Tradition” in American politics? Why is it important according to Hartz?