

## AP U.S. Government: Foundational Documents Quick Reference Guide

Document	Author	Main Points
Declaration of Independence	Thomas Jefferson (primary) - Authorized by Second Continental Congress	Declared Independence from Britain Identified Natural Rights- Life, Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness and govt's job to protect them Influenced heavily by John Locke <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Consent of the Governed</li> <li>○ Limited Government</li> <li>○ Social Contract Theory</li> </ul>
Articles of Confederation	John Dickinson - Authorized by Second Continental Congress	Confederal Government; Weak- Congress not given many powers Unicameral Legislature <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Each State = 1 vote</li> <li>○ 2-7 Delegates</li> </ul> No Executive/ No Judicial
U.S. Constitution	Written by Constitutional Convention	Outlines the structure of the government Three branches of government Relationships between states Amendment process? 27 Amendments (including the Bill of Rights)
Federalist #10	James Madison Federalist Papers	Factions are inevitable Large Republic is the best form of government to address factions
Federalist #51	Madison or Hamilton Federalist Papers	Power is divided between three branches of government Power is divided between national/ state government Checks and Balances All keep power from becoming too centralized- prevent one person/ one group from taking over the government
Brutus #1	Robert Yates Anti- Federalist	Constitution gives too much power to central government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Necessary and Proper Clause</li> <li>○ Supremacy Clause</li> </ul> Can do away with State Governments Standing Army in peacetime is a destruction of liberty Once you give up power the only way to get it back is by force