2. Context
   a. The document was written in 1754.
   b. It was written in Albany, New York.
   c. Benjamin Franklin wrote the document.
   d. The document is a primary source—a plan of government.
   e. Franklin wrote the plan to propose a design of union of the colonies.
   f. The American colonists and the British government were the audience for the plan.

Handout C—Benjamin Franklin and the Albany Plan of Union
1: Similarities: Both documents propose a stronger union of the colonies in a federal system. The colonies/states retain certain powers in each system. Differences: The Albany Plan creates a central government among the colonies for the first time, whereas the Constitution aims to strengthen the existing general government (“to form a more perfect Union”).

2. Similarities: Both documents create an executive and a legislative branch. Under the Albany Plan, the members of the Grand Council, like the members of the Senate created by the Constitution, are chosen by the colonial/state legislatures. Differences: The Albany Plan creates a unicameral (one-house) legislature, elected every three years. The Constitution creates a bicameral (two-house) legislature, the House members being chosen every two years and the senators every six. House members are elected directly by the people, unlike the members of the Grand Council, who are chosen by the colonial assemblies.

3. Similarities: Both legislatures meet at least once a year. Under both plans, the executive and legislature have a role in the lawmaking process. The president (or president-general) must execute the laws. Differences: Under the Albany Plan, the president-general has an absolute veto (i.e., acts of the Grand Council cannot become law without his approval). Under the Constitution, the president has a limited veto (i.e., even if the president disapproves of the measure, the Congress can still enact a bill into law by a two-thirds vote of each house).

4. Similarities: Both the president and the president-general make treaties with the advice of the legislature. They also appoint military officers with the consent of the legislature. Differences: Under the Albany Plan, the president-general does not need the approval of the Grand Council to make war and treaties. Under the Constitution, the president needs two thirds of the senators to approve a treaty he has made. The Congress is given the power to declare war, though the President is commander-in-chief of the armed forces of the United States.

5. Similarities: Both central governments are given the power to tax. Taxes should be just. Differences: There are no significant differences here.

ELBRIDGE GERRY

Handout A—Elbridge Gerry (1744–1814)
1. Gerry signed the Declaration of Independence and the Articles of Confederation.

2. Gerry announced that he could not sign the Constitution. He believed it would create a too-powerful central government. Despite his refusal to approve the document, Gerry did not speak against it. He believed the Constitution was necessary to prevent the union of the states from falling apart. During the ratification debates in Massachusetts, he argued...
that the state should approve the Constitution only on the condition that amendments would be added as soon as possible.

3. During his second term as governor of Massachusetts, Gerry approved a redistricting plan that gave an electoral advantage to Republicans. One of the districts resembled a salamander, so Federalists termed the practice “gerrymandering.”

4. Answers will vary. Students could mention the X, Y, Z Affair and Gerry’s decision to stay behind in France after he and his fellow delegates were asked to bribe French officials. This led to criticism of him by Federalists. Students could also mention Governor Gerry’s attempt to ensure the election of Republicans to the state senate through the tactic of “gerrymandering.” The unpopularity of this tactic contributed to Gerry’s defeat in the next election for governor.

5. Answers will vary. In regard to politics, students should mention that Gerry was active in the patriot movement and sympathetic to the idea of independence. In regard to personality, students should mention that Gerry was a stubborn and difficult man who lacked a sense of humor and seemed to enjoy arguing.

Handout B—By His Own Hand: Elbridge Gerry and Gerrymandering

Below are two examples of how students could draw district boundaries so as to favor one party.

Example A: Republicans are favored in 7 out of 10 districts.
- Federalist Districts = 1, 2, 3
- Republican Districts = 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

Example B: Federalists are favored in 8 out of 10 districts.
- Federalist Districts = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9
- Republican Districts = 8, 10

Patrick Henry

Handout A—Patrick Henry (1736–1799)

1. Saying he “smelled a rat,” Henry feared that the meeting was a plot by the powerful to construct a strong central government of which they would be the masters.

2. Henry warned that the new Constitution would create a “consolidated” government in which power would be concentrated in the hands of a few. The document did not provide for adequate checks and balances and therefore did not protect the people against evil rulers. It gave the central government the dangerous power of direct taxation. It created a standing army, which a power-hungry president could use to awe the people into submission. It also lacked a bill of rights.

3. He disliked Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, the founders of the party. Also, as a devout Christian, Henry was disgusted by the party’s approval of the atheistic French Revolution.

4. In both cases, Henry questioned the right of the British government to interfere in Virginia’s affairs. In the Parson’s Cause, Henry denounced the king’s repeal of the Two-Penny Act as “an instance of misrule” and perhaps tyranny. During the Stamp Act Crisis, Henry asserted that “the General Assembly of this