

STUDY GUIDE: *FEDERALIST PAPERS, NUMBER TEN*

I. **Background research** – The information for this section can be found in your textbook and in Carol Berkin’s *A Brilliant Solution*. You may also use any other sources you wish.

1. Identify: *The Federalist Papers*
2. Who were the three authors of *The Federalist Papers*? Did they sign their names to their writings? If not, to whom were the essays attributed? Were all of the authors participants at the Constitutional Convention? Explain. (See Berkin, p. 62)
3. What was the authors’ main objective in writing *The Federalist Papers*?
4. Identify: Federalists, Anti-Federalists (see Berkin, p. 175)
5. Define: republic, republican government
6. Considering that Great Britain did not have a republican government, what experience/knowledge of republican government might the Founding Fathers have had?
7. Based on this knowledge (#6), what caused the Founders to be worried?
8. Who is the author of *Federalist #10*?

II. **Reading and interpretation** – As you read each paragraph of the essay, answer the corresponding question(s).

Paragraph 1

1. The Founding Fathers were aware of the skepticism and problems that would have to be overcome in order for republican government to succeed in the U.S. *Federalist #10* addresses one of these problems. What is the problem that is identified in this paragraph? (Hint: This problem causes government to be unstable and contributes to its “unsteadiness and injustice.”)

Paragraph 2

2. Define: faction

3. In your own words, explain why the author considers factions to be dangerous to republican government.

In paragraphs 3 through 6, the author presents a number of “straw arguments.” These are arguments that are given and then “shot down.”

Paragraph 3

4. What are the two ways in which factions can be cured?

Paragraphs 4 through 6 discuss the possibilities of removing the causes.

5. How does the author “shoot down” the first “cure” for factions?
 - Explain: “the first remedy (is) worse than the disease”

 - Explain: “the second (remedy) is impracticable”

 - What evidence is offered for the claim (stated at the beginning of paragraph 7) that “the latent causes of faction are ...sown in the nature of man”?

Paragraphs 7 through 9

6. What is the most common cause for the development of factions? Is it eliminable?

7. What is the traditional role of government on this issue?

15. Why, according to the author, can't pure democracies deal justly with majority factions?

Paragraph 14

16. In this paragraph, the author presents his solution to the problem of factions. The cure is (tah dah....)

Paragraph 15

17. How is it that republics, especially large ones, can deal more effectively with the problems generated by majority factions? (look for two reasons)

Paragraph 16

18. What is the major advantage of the first reason given in question 17?

19. What, "on the other hand," might be the major disadvantage of this reason or characteristic?

20. The author then poses a rhetorical question and proceeds to answer it.

- The question:

- The answer:

Paragraphs 17-18

21. Explain the two reasons why the author came to this answer (question #20).

Paragraph 19

22. In trying to anticipate any possible arguments against his reasoning, the author acknowledges that representative government requires a balance between too many electors and too few electors.

What is the problem with too many electors?

What is the problem with too few?

23. Why does the author believe that the (new) federal Constitution provides the necessary balance?

24. Identify the principle that the author is defending.

Paragraph 20

25. What argument does the author make to support his claim that large (in terms of numbers of electors) and extensive (in terms of territory) republics afford the best control of factions?

Paragraph 21

26. For what three reasons does the author believe that large republics have an advantage over small ones and that the Union (national government) has over small republics (the states)?

Paragraph 22

27. In this paragraph, the author presents two more arguments in favor of large republics being able to control factions:

Paragraph 23

28. What does the author mean by the statement “we behold a republican remedy for the diseases most incident to republican government”?

III. Conclusions – Be prepared to give your answers to the following:

1. Summarize, in your own words, the author’s thesis and cite three arguments he uses to defend his thesis.
2. Why do you think *Federalist #10* is considered one of the most important documents in U.S. History?