

Experiencing the Weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation

Articles of Confederation	Classroom Experience
Congress was composed of 13 states.	The class was divided into 13 groups.
Each state had one vote in Congress.	Each group of students had one vote.
Congress dealt with many problems, such as how to develop the western lands acquired by the United States in the Treaty of Paris.	Students tried to choose a radio station to listen to.
Congress failed to resolve disputes between states over taxes and boundaries.	The class failed to choose a station to listen to.
Many citizens were concerned that the government was too weak.	Some students became dissatisfied and frustrated.

Debating at the Convention

Proposals for How States Will Be Represented in the New Government

Proposal A

The number of representatives a state sends to Congress will depend on the size of the state's population.

Proposal B

Each state will have an equal number of representatives in Congress, regardless of the state's size.

Proposal C

The number of representatives a state sends to Congress will depend partially on the wealth of the citizens of the state.

Procedure for Discussing the Proposals

Follow these steps to discuss how states should be represented in the new government.

Step 1: One state delegation nominates one of the proposals above.

Step 2: The nomination is seconded by another state.

Step 3: The nomination is discussed and debated for three to five minutes.

Step 4: The nominated proposal is voted upon. To pass, the nomination must be approved by a majority of the states. A majority means that a proposal receives more than half of the votes.

Step 5: If the proposal does not pass, repeat the process with a new nomination.