

GE Focus Areas: Communication; Civic Discourse-Historical Awareness

Federalists vs. Anti-Federalists

One disagreement between Federalists and Anti-Federalists arose from their different views of the nature of republican government. A number of prominent Anti-Federalists clung to the traditional theory that a republican government could only survive if a nation remained small and the people's interests were fairly homogenous. Federalists, most notably Publius, argued it would be easier to protect liberty in a large and diverse republic.

Read *Competing Visions: Brutus and Publius Debate the Nature of Republicanism* (p. 149) and answer the following questions with a 1-2 paragraph response.

- Why did Brutus and Publius differ about the relationship between size and republicanism?
- After reading both arguments, which view do you support: the Federalist (Publius) or the Anti-Federalist (Brutus)? Why?