



## Analyzing U.S. Foundational Texts

### Today's Standard

11-12.RI.8 - Delineate and evaluate the reasoning in seminal U.S. texts, including the application of constitutional principles and use of legal reasoning (e.g., in U.S. Supreme Court majority opinions and dissents) and the premises, purposes, and arguments in works of public advocacy (e.g., The Federalist, presidential addresses).

Cues	Notes
What is the significance of majority and dissenting opinions?	Majority opinions reflect the view of the majority of justices and set legal precedents.
How do The Federalist Papers contribute to our understanding of U.S. government?	Dissenting opinions provide alternative viewpoints and can influence future legal thinking.  The Federalist Papers argue for the ratification of the U.S. Constitution and explain the principles of federalism.
What rhetorical strategies are used in public advocacy?	Public advocacy texts often use ethos, pathos, and logos to persuade audiences.

### Summary

Understanding the reasoning in seminal U.S. texts involves analyzing majority and dissenting opinions in Supreme Court cases, evaluating arguments in The Federalist Papers, and recognizing rhetorical strategies in public advocacy.