

1st Speaker – George Washington

Hello! I am George Washington. I was elected to preside over this Convention. Our objective was to address the weaknesses in the Articles of Confederation. We decided not to amend or fix the Articles of Confederation but instead create a new government. A constitutional republic, actually! The task was difficult. Throughout our four months of meeting and debating, many decisions and compromises had to be made. I am happy with what we have created, though. While our government may be an experiment, many men in this room are well-read and well-educated on the subject. They have studied the successes and failures of over 2,000 years worth of monarchies and republics—writings from ancient Greece, ancient Rome, the Bible, and the works of Enlightenment thinkers. These men have read them all! I may not be as well-educated, but I am ready to be like the great Roman statesman Cincinnatus and defend this Republic with everything I have.

2nd Speaker – James Madison

James Madison here. I have been extremely busy at this convention! Not only am I taking official notes and sharing my ideas, but I have also been passing along ideas and thoughts from Thomas Jefferson and John Adams since they are serving as ambassadors and not here. Adams is a big fan of the Roman statesman Cicero and his ideas on separation of powers. For Jefferson, he loves them all! From Aristotle to Epicurus, he is always quoting ancient Greek philosophers. Me? I have read the classics but I am most excited to create a uniquely American national government.

3rd Speaker – Roger Sherman

Do you hear that? The delegates from the larger states and the delegates from the smaller states are arguing again. I, Roger Sherman from Connecticut, am working on a compromise. We know we need a legislative body in this new government. We just can't agree on the issue of representation. We know ancient civilizations like Greece and Rome used direct democracy and republicanism as their forms of government. Ancient Athens had the Boule, and Rome had three different bodies within their legislative branch. We also have experience with Great Britain's Parliament. My compromise is going to propose a bicameral legislature. This is what excites me about forming a new government; you can look to a lot of sources for inspiration and then turn that into something that works for the United States of America!