

CONSTITUTION 101

Module 4: Constitutional Convention and Ratification

4.4 Activity Guide

COMPROMISE WORKSHOP

In this activity, you will explore the key compromises reached at the Constitutional Convention.

In your small groups, identify the strengths and weaknesses of each compromise, as well as any opportunities and threats each would cause—this is known as a SWOT analysis. Be prepared to discuss your analyses with the rest of the class.

The Connecticut (Great) Compromise	
Strengths The compromise meant that both big states and small states would get something that they wanted.	Weaknesses No side got everything that it wanted.
Opportunities Making the U.S. House and Senate work together would slow down the legislative process and allow time for reasoned deliberation and compromise.	Threats With the Senate based on equal representation, there is the risk of people from smaller states having disproportionate power.

The Electoral College	
Strengths	Weaknesses
Opportunities	Threats

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The Three-Fifths Compromise	
Strengths	Weaknesses
Opportunities	Threats

The International Slave Trade Clause	
Strengths	Weaknesses
Opportunities	Threats