**Sample Outline Structure: Federalists vs. Antifederalists Essay**

This is a sample outline. You’re not required to organize your essay this way, though I think it’s an effective way to do it.

1. Intro
   1. Constitution background – why, where, goals
   2. Why it was controversial, introduce the two sides of the debate
   3. Thesis:
2. Body Paragraph #1
   1. The Feds/Antifeds argument regarding (individual rights, size of gov’t, who’s in power, etc.) is stronger
   2. Explain the position of the side I agree with
      1. Find quote that shows what they thought
      2. Explain why I think that idea is smart
   3. Explain what the other side says, but then say why my side is stronger
3. Body Paragraph #2
   1. Follow the pattern of body paragraph #1, only make it about a different issue
4. Body Paragraph #3
   1. In addition, contemporary events in the U.S. show that the feds/antifeds were right
   2. One current event that supports my side (gov’t run by the rich (or run by the smart and well educated), the states still have rights, etc.
      1. Explain why that example supports my side of the argument
   3. Give another example to make it even stronger
5. Conclusion
   1. Restate my points (the feds/antifeds were right because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   2. Talk about why these issues never went away
   3. Talk about why these issues are still so important today

**Looking at Contemporary Events:**

**Who was right? The Federalists or the Antifederalists?**

Directions: In your essay, you’ll be required to use at least one current example to support your side. Below are several that you can choose from. Read each example. If it is an example that supports the Federalists, put an **F** next to it. If it is an example that supports the Antifederalists, put an **AF** next to it.

1. **The Occupy Wall St. movement** grew in 2011-2012 to attract many people. A key statistic that led to the formation of the movement was that in the last 30 years, all of the economic growth in the U.S. has gone to the richest 1% of the population. The other 99% has, on average, not seen any growth in their wages or worth. They believe the government and financial system are designed to help the wealthy and not the common people.
2. In 2010, an **oil pipe in the Gulf of Mexico** burst, releasing about 5 million barrels of oil into the water. While this had a devastating effect on the local ecosystem and economy, it could have been much worse. The national government coordinated a cleanup effort to prevent the disaster from being worse.
3. The **National Security Agency** (NSA), for many years, has used stealthy means to monitor citizens both at home and abroad. Recently, the media revealed the massive extent of the NSA’s spying- including its large-scale interception of people’s phone calls and emails. The U.S. government does this without a warrant and has used the fight against terrorism as its main rationale for explaining this behavior.
4. **Affordable Care Act** (ACA)- a law signed under the Obama administration, the ACA – commonly known as Obamacare- aims to increase the quality and affordability of healthcare in the United States. While the Supreme Court has upheld the constitutionality of this law, many states and conservative groups, like the Tea Party movement, feel that this law is an overreach of the government’s power since it mandates healthcare. To them, this bill is an intrusion into the economic and personal lives of Americans.
5. **Government Shutdown**- In the fall of 2013, the government of the United States shut down due to a deadlock between the House and the Senate over delaying the passage of the Affordable Care Act. The Republican-led House of Representatives viewed the shutdown as a way to express and show their constituent’s displeasure with this healthcare law. At the very least, they would be able to justify themselves to local voters.
6. **Bailout**- In late 2008 and early 2009, the government organized a “bail out” of many of the nation’s largest banks. The banks were in danger of going bankrupt, and the government believed they were preventing an even worse economic crash. The bailout is a big reason why the government debt today is so large.
7. **Gay Marriage**: State laws differ widely from state to state. For example, gay marriage is legal in Massachusetts and has recently been legalized in New Jersey, but in many parts of the country it’s not.