



## AP<sup>®</sup> United States History 2002 Sample Student Responses

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George Washington and John Adams were great contributors to the establishment of a stable government after the adoption of the Constitution. They were both great leaders in our country. The establishment of America as a country was in large part due to ~~these~~ these two men and their gifts of leadership, courage, charisma, and confidence.

~~George~~ George Washington was the first President of the United States. He set ~~the~~ the country on the right path. Washington began ~~an~~ economic growth, started ~~an~~ foreign policy, and guided ~~the~~ <sup>the country</sup> in so many other ways. He was exactly the right man for the nation to start off with. At the end of his presidency, he warned the nation against political parties and alliances with other nations permanently. This was exactly what the country needed to form a stabilized government.

John Adams was Washington's successor to the presidency. After serving as Washington's Vice-President, Adams was chosen as the president. He continued many of the policies that Washington set up, but he also established and passed some new things. Adams ~~passed~~ ~~the~~ proposed the Alien and Seditions Act. These acts made immigration of foreign "aliens" illegal and denied people the right to express their opinion negatively in regards to the president. Adams was not as popular or as well-liked as Washington, but he, too, continued the beginning of a stable ~~to~~ American government.

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of establishing federal authority. Jefferson and Washington's contributions during their terms as presidents proved to be invaluable in ~~establishing~~ establishing a stable government.

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Although Thomas Jefferson and George Washington did not always see eye to eye on issues, they were far from polar opposites. Each strove in his actions to ~~see~~ help the new nation and to create a stable national government. Washington dealt more with domestic problems, and Jefferson with foreign issues.

Washington set important precedents as the first president of the United States. He stayed only two terms, though he could have been reelected for the remainder of his life. He did so in order to establish a tradition that no president serve more than two consecutive terms so that he not become dictatorial. The first major challenge to federal authority also occurred during Washington's terms. The Whiskey Rebellion, staged by backwoods moonshine producers in Pennsylvania was a direct challenge to the federal power to tax. Washington led an army into Pennsylvania and put down the "rebellion" without the shedding of blood, and thereby successfully enforced federal power. Also during his presidency Washington learned of a conspiracy to secede by a group of New Englanders. When he arrived at the Hartford Convention, the men were so ashamed that they dropped their ideas and went their separate ways. Washington used his power and influence in his farewell address as well. Warning against permanent alliances and meddling in foreign affairs, he helped create a period of peaceful stabilization for the

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new country.

Jefferson also helped to stabilize the infant U.S. His terms were engulfed in foreign affairs, namely the Napoleonic Wars and how to stay out of them. Although the U.S. wanted neutrality, it ~~could be~~ <sup>was nearly</sup> impossible to achieve. Seizure of American vessels by both the British and French angered Americans. Despite widespread pressure for war, Jefferson negotiated and enacted the Embargo Act. Even though it failed in the long run, Jefferson knew that the last thing the U.S. needed was ~~an~~ war. In keeping the new, fledgling ~~country~~ <sup>U.S.</sup> out of war, Jefferson helped to stabilize the government. Although Jefferson considered himself a strict constructionist, he still went ahead with the Louisiana Purchase. This also helped stabilize the government by both removing the French from our backyard so to speak and it also secured a port for midwestern farmers with New Orleans. Jefferson also was a proponent of Madison's Bill of Rights, which guaranteed certain individual rights and also satisfied many states who were uncertain of the Constitution.

Both Washington and Jefferson contributed greatly to the success of the United States in its earliest years. Both recognized the need to stay out of foreign affairs, but each also saw the importance

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Following adoption and ratification of the Constitution, there were many arguments about how to run the new republic. Would there be a strong or a weak federal government? How would the Constitution be interpreted? How good were the checks and balances? Would the nation even survive? However, the luck of the United States to have two leaders, George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, who would sort out these issues and help the young nation build a powerful foundation allowed those questions to be answered. George Washington provided a single leader for the country to stand behind, a precedent for how the Chief Executive is to operate, and ~~at~~ the beginning of a loose constructionist view on the Constitution that continues to this day. His Neutrality policy also helped protect the new nation from international conflict. Thomas Jefferson tried to push for the rights of states, but in fact, found that strong federal power was necessary to operate government efficiently. He got the Louisiana Purchase, dealt with other party leaders, and provided an example of how strict constructionist ideals could yield a government for the people. While his agrarian dreams for the future were flawed, he provided an example of how one operates in office.

George Washington at the end of the war, was regarded as an American hero. While many other revolutions have failed as a result of a broken

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Leadership, America found the enigmatic George Washington as someone to stand behind after the adoption of the Constitution. This alone would have granted him near immortality ~~into~~ <sup>in</sup> national history. However, as the new President, he showed how a Chief Executive was to operate, not as a military dictator, which Washington easily could have been, but as a man who just does his job, ~~executes~~ to help the country. When the Constitution says to "enforce" the laws that Congress passes, it seems vague. However, Washington put those words into action when he made federal departments, created the first Cabinet of advisors to help him run the office, created the new national army and navy, and appointed judges. These acts set a precedent for how Presidents should run and continue to run the high office to this day. If Washington had been a bad administrator and delegator of power or had brought the military to play a role in government, other Presidents after him might have followed his example, destabilizing the nation ~~and~~ and possibly even destroying it. Just by sitting in that chair and not doing ~~those things~~, Washington earned himself a place in history as a good president. However, Washington also started foreign policy with the Neutrality Act, protecting the nation from possible enemies.

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And in possibly his most important action, he stepped down after two terms, ensuring that no President should ever go for more than that, until FDR.

This, to me, shows his true belief in the democratic ideal, demonstrating his belief that no man should be in such a position of power for too long, because of the corruption that it might cause.

Thomas Jefferson served as the United States' first Secretary of State, dealing with foreign nations and becoming the foremost diplomat ~~of the time~~ in the country. He set a good track record, not angering any countries and following Washington's Neutrality beliefs. As President, he brought with him the democratic ideals that he had when writing the Declaration of Independence. He saw government as a silent hand, only becoming active when something of true importance comes up. He saw the Constitution as a document to be followed strictly, and this held back the Federalist ideas of Adams. While loose constructionism is good, if taken too far, Jefferson saw how easily a President could become king. He ensured that the government not overstretch its bounds. However with his land purchase of Louisiana, he showed that the federal government's power should be used for the benefit of the people. He saw the importance of the land as power for the U.S.



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His beliefs ~~in~~ in the democratic ideals of the U.S. led him to become a President who stood behind his people and demonstrated how a fusion of Federalist and Republican ideals could give Americans the best of both worlds, using public money for public benefit like the Louisiana Purchase, and ~~and~~ keeping the federal government from overstretching its bounds. This provided the nation with a stability that it would retain ~~in~~ in its most vulnerable time.

In conclusion, these two Virginians were two important figures in early American history because of their ability to lead the country. Washington's act of being the first President ~~and~~ his neutrality beliefs, and his decision not to run for three terms provided a precedent for future Presidents to follow and cemented in place the power of the federal government. Jefferson attempted to control that power, ~~and~~ his presidency although his Louisiana Purchase ~~and belief in the democratic ideal~~ showed his Federalist tendencies in working government for the people. His belief in the democratic ideal was his most important act, as it showed just how ~~and~~ that ideal can be interpreted by government.