



Washington's Farewell Address

Using Evidence

Objective *What struggles did the nation face at end of the 1700's (18th Century), as a young country?*

Directions: Read the three excerpts from President George Washington's Farewell Address (1796) below and answer the corresponding analysis questions that follow.

Part 1:Unity

1	"The name of American, which belongs to you..., must always exalt [to speak of]
2	the...pride of patriotism of the whole nation more than any feelings or concerns
3	derived from local discriminations[concerns]. With slight shades of differences, you
4	have the same religion, manners, habits, and political principles. You have in a common
5	fought and triumphed together; the independence and liberty you possess are the work in
6	joint counsels, and joint efforts of common dangers, sufferings, and successes.... The
7	North, in a dependent relationship with the south...finds great economic gains from
8	the manufacturing and production of resources that come from the south. The
9	South....benefits from the work of the North, sees its agriculture grow and its
10	commerce expand. The tools the farmers in the South depend on are made in the
11	North. The East, ...finds improvement of communications by land and water... The
12	West is only able to expand from the East due to these improvements the East
13	makes...While then, every part of our country thus feels an immediate and particular
14	interest in union, all parts combined cannot fail to find in the united mass of means
15	and efforts greater strength...."

- A) *Close Reading:* What is patriotism (line 2)? How is it different from local discriminations (lines 2 & 3)?
- B) *Analysis:* What does the phrase "must always exalt thepride of patriotism of the whole nation more than any feelings or concerns derived from local discriminations" (lines 1-3) mean?
- What might have George Washington been noticing in the late 1800's that led him to include this in his farewell address?
- C) *Close Reading:* What is Washington's main idea in lines 6 – 13?

Part 2: Political parties

1	"Let me now warn you in the most serious manner against the terrible effects of the spirit
2	of political parties in general... sharpened by the spirit of revenge... a frightful abuse of
3	power... this leads to a more formal and permanent cruel use of power. Sooner or later,
4	the leaders of these parties become the loudest voice, and turns the disposition into the
5	purposes of his own elevation, and ruins the public liberty...."

- A) *Close Reading*: Does Washington agree or disagree with the existence of political parties?
- B) *Evidence*: Cite one piece of textual evidence from part 2 to support your answer to question A.
- C) *Close Reading*: How do President Washington's thoughts about political parties reinforce or support his claims about patriotism in part 1? *Cite one piece of evidence from both parts 1 & 2 to support your claims.*

Part 3: Alliances

1	2	“Foreign alliances might be easy to forge and seem appealing, but such attachments or alliances are particularly alarming to the truly enlightened and independent patriot...Such attachment of a small or weak nation to a great and powerful nation dooms the smaller weaker nation to become a dependent of the great and powerful nation. The great rule of conduct for us in regard to foreign nations is in extending our economic relations, to have with them as little political connection as possible beyond that....Europe has a set of primary interests which to us have none; or a very remote relation. She is engaged in frequent controversies, the causes of which are essentially not our concerns. Hence, therefore, it must be unwise in us to bind ourselves by alliances...”
3	4	
5	6	
7	8	
9		
10		

- A) *Close Reading:* According to lines 1 – 4, does Washington support or argue against forming alliances with other nations? Cite evidence from the text to support your claims.
- B) *Analysis:* What does George Washington provide as evidence in support of his claims?
- C) *Analysis:* Compare and contrast Washington’s advice in the three sections. How are his claims on unity, political parties, and alliances similar? How are his claims different?
- D) *Analysis:* If you had to capture the main idea of the Farewell Address as a whole, what would that main idea be in one or two sentences?



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Written Task

Directions: Using information from the documents, you will now write a response to the task below using excerpts of George Washington's farewell address provided above.

Task: Using the information from the document above, and your knowledge of US History complete the following writing prompt:

Write a letter to George Washington suggesting whether or not we have followed along the path and claims he suggested. What has our nation done in the past 220 years with regards to building unity, forming alliances, and political parties?

- *Evaluate* whether or not our nation has followed his suggestions regarding unity, alliances, and political parties in the more than 220 years of our nation's existence after this letter was penned.
 - *Evaluate* whether or not our nation has followed George Washington's suggested pathways
 - 3 body paragraphs: 1 addressing unity, 1 addressing alliances, and 1 addressing political parties
 - Include an opening introductory paragraph
 - Include a final concluding paragraph
 - In total: 5 paragraph letter
 - *Cite evidence from the document above & use your knowledge of US History & current events to support your claims*

In developing your answer be sure to keep these general definitions in mind:

evaluate means to “examine and judge the significance, worth, or condition of; to determine the value of ”