

Example
Constitutional Convention Lesson Plan
News cast.

News Anchor:. We now move now to the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. Investigative reporter Jedediah Smith is on location with his first report. Jed, do you have Report #1 for us?

Jedediah Smith (Report #1): Jedediah Smith here in Philadelphia, the city of brotherly love. People are arguing everywhere here at the home of the Constitutional Convention. Like any good, juicy convention, people are taking sides. Sources tell me that political parties are about to emerge.

News Anchor: Good work, Jed. We know that information is scarce. The participants are very secretive. Those sources tell us they are law abiding so far. This heated debate is no friendly fight. The public anxiously awaits word.

CHECK for student comprehension. Ask the class what the main concerns were of the small and larger states. (They were all concerned with the relative power of the small and large states and how each would be represented in Congress. The smaller states felt that their liberties would be in danger. The larger states felt that their money would be in danger.) Who came up with the answer? (Roger Sherman.) Where was he from? (Connecticut – his solution was called the Connecticut Compromise.) What was his solution? (The government is to include two houses of Congress, one whose representatives are based on population called the House of Representatives, and a second having an equal number of representatives from each state called the Senate.)

News Anchor: There's additional coverage by our online news team. There are more details about the controversy surrounding the representation of small and large states.

Go to <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/historyofus/web02/segment5.html>. Provide students with a **FOCUS FOR MEDIA INTERACTION**, asking them to read and find the population of Delaware and Virginia. After students have found the numbers, ask them what the population of each was. (Delaware had 59,000 and Virginia had 692,000 residents.) That's a big difference.

Read the following line aloud:

News Anchor: I understand our Web reporters have secretly (or