

## Literacy using Historical Documents

**This worksheet is designed to assist students with literacy and historical thinking skills.**

*Directions: Read the below document and highlight any word you do not understand. After you have read and highlighted look up the words you do not understand. Then answer the questions at the bottom. The focus of the questions are on HAPPY (Historical Context, Audience, Purpose, Point of View, & Why)*

### **Transcription** (Document in Delaware Archives)

#### A Petition of the Freedholders and Electors of the Delaware State to the General Assembly

Whereas the Citizens of the State have for some time experienced great inconveniences and disadvantages, which in the opinion of your Petitioners have chiefly proceeded from a want of a more efficient general governance of the Union. And as the late General Convention appointed to meet at Philadelphia have with the most auspicious unanimity agreed upon and recommended a federal Constitution for the excellent purposes of forming a more perfect Union establish justice, providing for the common Defense, promoting the general welfare, and securing the Blessings of Liberty to the Citizens of the United States and their Posterity. And have resolved that the same be laid before the United States in the Congress assembled, and afterwards submitted to a Convention of Delegates chosen in each State by the People thereof under the recommendation of its legislature for their assent and Ratification your Petitioners therefore having had the Satisfaction to hear that Congress have approved the Constitution above mentioned, most earnestly request your honorable Houses to appoint a time as early as may be convenient for the Election of Delegates to a State Convention, in order that the Citizens of Delaware may from their zeal for the general welfare by a speedy ratification an adoption of a plan of Government which your petitioner trust will be attended with the most desirable consequences of Peace, stability, efficacy and Prosperity in all the confederate state respect and confidence in forging a nation and meet the applause and cordial approbation of the true notaries of Liberty whatever Country the inhabit.

October 24, 1787

## Questions

1. What was the date of the document?
2. Who wrote the document?
3. *Context is defined as the background information that surrounds and influences events, ideas, or developments in a particular time period.* What is the historical context for the above document? (Historical Context)
4. Who is the document being written to? (Who is the audience)
5. What was the purpose of the General Convention in Philadelphia? (Purpose of the Document)
6. What are the petitioners and freeholders asking of the Delaware State General Assembly? (Point of View of the Document)
7. Did the General Assembly fulfill the request of the petitioners and freeholders?
8. Where can someone look for arguments to Support the Constitution in 1787?
9. Who wrote these (Question 8) arguments for support of the Constitution in 1787?
10. Are any of arguments in the above document similar to what was written in question 8?