



**Fears of a Setting Sun**  
Dennis C. Rasmussen



**Brought to you by the following partners**



**February 24, 2022 7:00 - 8:00 pm**  
**Central Standard Time**

**James Madison**  
**Ch 14, 15, & Epilogue**

## ***Introduction: The Why?***

*Our why is to enrich our content knowledge over the founding era and to enhance our instruction through the sharing of implementable learning strategies and lesson plans.*

## ***Additional Objectives:***

*Participants will understand and discuss the complex and sometimes contradictory thoughts held by the Founders of the United States.*

*Participants will be given the opportunity to connect with other teachers with the shared goals of wanting to learn and improve their craft, which is vital to keeping people in the field.*

## **Schedule of Events: February 24, 2022 The Zoom Mainroom will open at 6:55 pm CST**

Link:

<https://ksde.zoom.us/j/83514228890?pwd=NENmTFVqT3l3YnZmdm5zakE5aFRXdz09>

Meeting ID: 835 1422 8890

Passcode: Book

- 7:00-7:05: Welcome and a brief introduction by Ken S. Thomas, Executive Director Johnson County, and Kansas First Amendment Foundation
- 7:05-7:10 James Madison Ch 14-15 & the Epilogue TQEs by Janeal Schmidt
- 7:10-7:15 Chat Room Minute: Questions and comments from the chat
- 7:15-7:35 Breakout Room discussions
- 7:35-7:50 Big Room discussion of compelling questions
- 7:50-8:00 Classroom applications and take aways to use

## **James Madison**

### **Compelling Question**

**Is a strong federal system the most effective government for the United States?**

## **Epilogue**

### **Compelling Question**

**Why did Dr. Rasmussen use this title? Is the sun rising or setting on the United States today?**

# Context for this Session

## Supportive Information:

[James Madison Short Biography, The White House](#)

[James Madison Mini-Bio, Biography Channel](#) (3:27)

# Agenda

**Supporting Question 1:** Was Madison an outlier? Why does he remain optimistic about the longevity of America's Constitution when so many others were not?

**Supporting Question 2:** How and/or why does Madison's views on federalism (state vs national sovereignty) change over time?

**Supporting Question 3:** Is federalism still the best form of governmental power for our country today? Which level of government, federal or state, can best solve our nation's problems? What are some current issues surrounding federalism?

**Supporting Question 4:** In the epilogue, Rasmussen argues that many of today's problems have been with the nation since its inception and are thus more systemic than we realize (p. 231). Do you agree with his classification or do we need to revisit any aspects of our Constitution today? What changes would you suggest making if we were to hold a Constitutional Convention today?

# Classroom Connections

How do you use these compelling and supportive questions to encourage learning in the classroom?

## Lesson Activities:

4-5 Create a profile or resume for a Founding Father

Guess Who Board

[Get to Know the Founding Fathers \(National Constitution Center\)](#)

[Meet the Framers \(National Archives\)](#)

[Founding Fathers Life in a Box Lesson \(KSHS\)](#)

6-8 Read through the Bill of Rights and create a Bill of Rights Booklet (one right per page with a brief synopsis and connection to student's lives)

[National Constitution Center Bill of Rights Classroom Learning Materials](#)

9-12 [Federalist #10](#) Annotation

[Pop up debate](#) or fishbowl discussion evaluating the arguments for/against ratification of the Constitution

[TQE Discussion Method](#) (adapted from an interview with Marisa Thompson on Jennifer Gonzales's The Cult of Pedagogy Podcast)

[Book in a Day Project / Book Jacket Report](#) (adapted from Blanche Wulfekoetter & Lucinda Evans)

## Teaching Resources

### Content Specific Resources:

[Federalist Papers #10](#)

[Federalist Papers #51](#)

[National Constitution Center Founders Online](#)

[National Constitution Center Podcast Civics 101 Podcast](#)

[Educating for American Democracy](#)

[Understanding Democracy: A Hip Pocket Guide by John J. Patrick](#)

### Outside Resources and Materials:

[James Madison Memorial Foundation Fellowship](#)

## Connections Next Time Session

Q & A with Dr. Rasmussen, March 3, 2022 7 pm