

Skillbuilder: Understand Point of View

“I have no fear but that the result of our experiment [new government] will be that men may be trusted to govern themselves without a master.”

— Thomas Jefferson

“It has been observed that a pure democracy, it if were practicable [attainable], would be the most perfect government. Experience has proved that no position [opinion] is more false than this.”

— Alexander Hamilton

Practice

1. From reading the chapter, what do you already know about Alexander Hamilton’s experience and beliefs? _____

2. What was Alexander Hamilton’s point of view? _____

3. What was Thomas Jefferson’s point of view? _____

4. Explain how knowing these two points of view can help you understand why Jefferson was against the national bank and why Hamilton was for the national bank. _____

Apply

What experiences and beliefs affect your own point of view about the powers of the federal government? On a separate sheet of paper, write a paragraph expressing your point of view about government.