

The Treaty of Versailles: To Ratify or Reject?

Should the United States have ratified or rejected the Treaty of Versailles?

Key Content Terms

As you complete the Reading Notes, use these Key Content Terms in your answers:

Fourteen Points	Treaty of Versailles
League of Nations	reservationist
Big Four	irreconcilable
war-guilt clause	internationalist

PREVIEW

Imagine that it is 1918. You are an American who has just opened up the morning newspaper. You see the photograph your teacher displays to the class. In your notebook, respond to these questions:

- How do you feel about President Wilson traveling to the peace conference in France?
- What hopes do you have?
- What fears concern you?

READING NOTES

As you read Sections 2 to 5, summarize your reading by creating a note-taking outline that includes

- a roman numeral (I–IV) for each section title.
- an uppercase letter (A–D) for each subhead.
- numbers for the main ideas under each subhead.

- I. Wilson’s Vision for World Peace
 - A. Fourteen Points to End All Wars
 1. Wilson’s first goal was . . .
 2. Wilson’s second goal was . . .
 - B. Wilson’s Unusual Decisions
 1. Wilson . . .
 2. Wilson . . .
- II. Ideals Versus Self-Interest at Versailles

WRITING FOR UNDERSTANDING

Write a five-paragraph essay that answers the question, *Should the United States have ratified or rejected the Treaty of Versailles?*

Your essay must include the following elements:

An introduction, including

- a *hook* that creates interest in the topic of your essay.
- a *thesis statement* that clearly states your perspective on the essay question.

Two body paragraphs that each include

- a *topic sentence* that clearly states one argument supporting your thesis statement.
- at least two pieces of *evidence* (facts, quotations, or examples) that support the topic sentence.
- a one- or two-sentence *explanation* of how each piece of evidence supports the topic sentence and thesis statement.

One body paragraph that includes

- a *topic sentence* that clearly states one argument of the opposing viewpoint and why you believe that position is incorrect.
- at least two pieces of *evidence* (facts, quotations, or examples) that the opposing viewpoint uses to support its opinion.
- a one- or two-sentence *explanation* of the weaknesses in how the opposing viewpoint uses each piece of evidence.

A conclusion that includes

- a reworded version of your thesis statement.
- a brief summary of your main arguments.