

Representation in Congress Readers Theatre Script
 Developed by Dr. Rosalind M. Flynn with Mr. Wilson's Class
 Mattawoman Middle School Charles County, Maryland

[All begin mumbling.]		Evans	How can you expect us to be civilized...
5	Order! (pause) The Philadelphia Constitutional Convention of 1787 is called to order.	6	...when we have no representation in our own government as civilized people do?
11	It seems we've come to a standstill. We can't agree about representation in Congress.	2	I like the New Jersey Plan. Each state would get equal representation in a single house in Congress!
1	We the people of Virginia want more representatives! [gesture]	All	Hmmmm.
3	Because states with more people should have more representatives in Congress!	7	What about the Virginia Plan that Madison proposed? Each state would receive proportional representation in two houses in Congress.
Odds	Aye! [gesture]	All	[simultaneously—"New Jersey/Virginia"]
Evans	Nay! [gesture]	5	We aren't getting anywhere with all this fighting. We must come up with a compromise.
2	I'm from Delaware. We came to this country so we could have representation in how our laws are made.	8	Mr. Franklin and I have a solution.
4	If the bigger states have more representation, they'll have all the power!	5	Speak up, Roger Sherman.
Evans	Here! Here! [gesture]	8	Why not combine the best parts of each plan? In our plan, there would be two houses in Congress.
Odds	[sound effect—grumbling]	10	One of the houses would be called the House of Representatives.
7	The quality of representatives is more important than the quantity!	All	What's that? [gesture]
9	Therefore, send your best men and don't worry!	8	It will be a house based on proportional representation.
12	But the more votes a state has, the more power in Congress!	10	It will have the ability to raise and spend money.
Odds	You're too small to matter anyway!	Evans	What about the other house? [gesture]
Evans	[sound effect] [gesture] Are you trying to say that our people don't matter?	10	The other house would be called the Senate.
Odds	The more people, the more representation! [gesture]	8	It would be based on equal representation. And it would accept or reject spending bills from the House of Representatives.
Evans	Each state should have the same number of representatives! [gesture]	Odds	Why should we go with your plan, Sherman?
All	[grumbling and chatter...]		
5	Gentlemen! (Pause for quiet.) You are acting uncivilized!		

Evans	It would certainly be fairer than your plan! [gesture]	5	All in favor of the Connecticut Plan say "Aye!"
All	[sound effect—mumbling and chatter] [gesture—turning from one to another...]	All	Aye! [gesture]
12	I like the sound of equal representation in the Senate. My fellow New Jerseyians will support the Connecticut Plan.	5	So we're all in agreement. The Connecticut Plan, with its two houses and mix of proportional and equal representation, wins. [sound effect—cheering]
13	Well, I still think the Virginia Plan is best for us Virginians. (Pause) But I'm willing to compromise. [gesture]	5	And from now on, it shall be called the Great Compromise.
4	Well, while we're all agreeing now, let's get this documented! [sound effect—happy mumbles and chatter]	11	Can we go home now?
		5	[sound effect] The Constitutional Convention is adjourned for today.
		All	Finally! [sound effect—mumbling as they "exit"] [gesture]