

## Response Group: The Nullification Crisis

**Focal Question: Did Andrew Jackson act appropriately in the three major crises of his presidency?**

**Decision Point Question 3: Should a state have the right to nullify a federal law?**

- I. As the instructor presents the content for the issue keep in mind the different perspectives that rose from this debate. Read each question below and answer that question for both sides of the issue of nullification.**

<b>Support Nullification (Point)</b>	<b>Oppose Nullification (Counter Point)</b>
<b><u>Amendment X:</u></b> <i>“The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.”</i>	<b><u>Article VI:</u></b> <i>“This constitution, and laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof; and all treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, shall be the supreme law of the land; and the judges in every state shall be bound thereby, anything in the Constitution or laws of any State to the contrary notwithstanding.”</i>
1. Who created the Constitution and what kind of government was created?	
2. What documents do they use to support their position on nullification?	
3. Which peoples would support this position?	

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#### II. In your group discuss the different perspectives and answer the questions below.

Support Nullification (Point)	Oppose Nullification (Counter Point)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Are the states completely sovereign?</li><li>• Why did some people argue that protective tariffs were unconstitutional?</li><li>• What procedure did Vice President Calhoun propose for nullification?</li><li>• Do states have the right to secession?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Is the Federal Government completely sovereign?</li><li>• Why did those oppose the South Carolina Ordinance of Nullification?</li><li>• What actions could be taken after South Carolina pass the Ordinance of Nullification?</li><li>• Is admission to the Union a “one way door?”</li></ul>

#### III. Answer the final questions below and discuss which position would be the correct on the issue of nullification. Provide facts to support your approach to strengthen your stance.

Did South Carolina have the right to nullify federal law?	Would allowing states to nullify federal laws weaken the national government?