



The Thrust of the Arguments

Arguments in Favor of the Sedition Act		
Argument Summaries	Quote Numbers	Comments
It is the duty of the Federal Government to protect the life, liberty, and happiness of its citizens.		
The Federal Government cannot be forced to depend on the states to protect it.		
Drastic times call for drastic measures.		
The principle is already well established that certain speech is illegal.		
We must protect the Federal Government against the threat of a revolt.		
What harm could there be in trying to stop speech that injures our society?		
If a jury can't prove your innocence, then you must be guilty.		
Other (Specify)		
Other (Specify)		



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Arguments Against the Sedition Act		
Argument Summaries	Quote Numbers	Comments
Freedom of the press is guaranteed in the First Amendment.		
Only the states have the right to pass a law like this.		
It's difficult to determine honest opinion from libel.		
There is already a law on the books to cover such offenses.		
In the end, lies will be shown to be lies. Those who tell lies will suffer. We don't need to do anything.		
There is a danger those in power will prosecute anyone who speaks against them.		
The Sedition Act will put a damper on free speech.		
With so much talk of war, it will be hard to find a fair and impartial jury.		
Once we lose our freedom of speech, what other freedoms might we lose?		
This law has been written to try to make sure the people now in power stay in power.		
Other (Specify)		