Aim: What issues were of concern to the founding fathers, and how did the Constitution address them?

Do Now: What are the characteristics of human nature?
Issues for the Founding Fathers:

- Human Nature
- Causes of Political Conflict
- Protecting Property
- Threat of Tyranny by a Faction
Keeping Direct Control Out of the Hands of the Majority

- Only the House of Representatives is directly elected – serve two year terms
- The Senate was elected by state legislatures – serve six year terms
- Electoral College
- President nominates judges – serve for life
American Government

- The Founding Fathers created a Republic, not a true democracy.
- A Republic is a system of government in which elected officials make decisions.
  - As contrasted with a direct democracy, where all citizens participate in governmental decision making.
- Today, our government is properly regarded as a Democratic Republic or Representative Democracy.
Articles of the Constitution -with important clauses

- **Article I**: Legislative Branch
  - “Necessary and Proper Clause,” Article I, Section 8: AKA “The Elastic Clause”
  - Commerce Clause, Article I, Section 8
- **Article II**: The Executive
- **Article III**: The Judiciary
- **Article IV**: Interstate Relations
  - Full Faith and Credit Clause, Article IV, Section 1
- **Article V**: Amending the Constitution
- **Article VI**: Debts of Confederation govt., Supremacy of Constitution, Oaths of Allegiance
  - Supremacy Clause
- **Article VII**: Ratifying the Constitution
Important Clauses In Amendments:

- Equal Protection Clause, Amendment 14
- Establishment Clause, Amendment 1
- Free Exercise Clause, Amendment 1
“Living Constitution”

- Amendment Process – The Constitution can be changed
- Informal Amendments – The “meaning” or “interpretation” of the Constitution changes:
  - Legislation by Congress,
  - Supreme Court Decisions
  - Executive Actions
  - Custom and Tradition often referred to as the Unwritten Constitution – Political Parties, The Cabinet, 2 Term precedent, Judicial Review
Proposed by Congress 2/3 votes of both houses

OR

Proposed by Convention called by Congress on Application of 2/3 of State Legislatures

Ratified by 3/4 of State Ratifying Conventions

OR

Ratified by 3/4 of State Legislatures

Ratified by 3/4 of State Legislatures
Conclusion:

- In your opinion, did the Founding Fathers fear true democracy? Explain.