**Do the Constitutional Term Limits for President Set by the 22nd Amendment Violate the Concept of**

**Democracy?**

*Read the Federalist Paper found below. Consider Hamilton’s opinion and respond to the questions that follow. Submit your responses using the School Space Drop Box*

**Federalist Paper #72 by Alexander Hamilton**

With a positive duration of considerable extent, I connect the circumstance of re-eligibility. The first is necessary to give to the officer himself the inclination and the resolution to act his part well, and to the community time and leisure to observe the tendency of his measures, and thence to form an experimental estimate of their merits. The last is necessary to enable the people, when they see reason to approve of his conduct, to continue him in his station, in order to prolong the utility of his talents and virtues, and to secure to the government the advantage of permanency in a wise system of administration.

One ill effect of the exclusion would be a diminution of the inducements to good behavior. There are few men who would not feel much less zeal in the discharge of a duty when they were conscious that the advantages of the station with which it was connected must be relinquished at a determinate period, than when they were permitted to entertain a hope of OBTAINING, by MERITING, a continuance of them. This position will not be disputed so long as it is admitted that the desire of reward is one of the strongest incentives of human conduct; or that the best security for the fidelity of mankind is to make their interests coincide with their duty. Even the love of fame, the ruling passion of the noblest minds, which would prompt a man to plan and undertake extensive and arduous enterprises for the public benefit, requiring considerable time to mature and perfect them, if he could flatter himself with the prospect of being allowed to finish what he had begun, would, on the contrary, deter him from the undertaking, when he foresaw that he must quit the scene before he could accomplish the work, and must commit that, together with his own reputation, to hands which might be unequal or unfriendly to the task. The most to be expected from the generality of men, in such a situation, is the negative merit of not doing harm, instead of the positive merit of doing good.

1. Federalist Paper No. 72 deals with the issue of “re-eligibility” of the chief magistrate (president).

Explain in your own words what this means?

2. Hamilton states, “The last is necessary to enable the people, when they see reason to approve his conduct, to continue him in his station….” What is Hamilton arguing?

3. Hamilton argues that a president might “be unequal or unfriendly to the task” of carrying out his work if not given the time in office to actually finish it. Do you agree or disagree? Why?

4. Describe what you think Hamilton’s position on term limits for the President is after reading this piece?

5. Consider the following excerpt from the document, “…so long as it is admitted that the desire of reward is one of the strongest incentives of human conduct.”

A. What does this mean?

B. How do you think that this statement supports Hamilton’s opinion about presidential term limits?