

Where you land depends on where you

1 Sunday


Planning on using our installment payment plan? Contact Tuition Management Systems (TMS) by today: www.afford.com or 1-800-722-4867

2 Monday

Summer Springboard

You won't receive your room assignment via the Web until July 29 but now is a great time to start planning your packing list!

3 Tuesday

Summer Springboard

4 Wednesday

Independence Day

5 Thursday

Summer Springboard

6 Friday

Summer Springboard


James Madison was an Episcopalian and graduate of the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University; 1771)

7 Saturday

Your first-year experience

It's been said that where you end up has a lot to do with where you started. We believe that. We've seen it over and over. That's part of why we have so much planned for you as you get ready for your first year as a JMU student.

Getting it all going

Your JMU experience will be a collection of learning, growing up, teaching, relationships, transitions and hundreds of ways to get involved in outstanding educational programs and a dynamic campus life. Check out  Pages 38–39 for lots of ways to be involved. You will become an important part of the JMU community. You'll have newfound freedom. That freedom does come with a price — an immense degree of responsibility to yourself and others.

Take a good look at the First Year Reading details below and the information covered in the next few weeks to get a taste of what's in store for you. As you set out on this most amazing journey, you'll have a better idea of what we believe are important things for you to think about.

First Year Reading

We know you want to be successful at JMU, and we believe that the things you will learn in First Year Reading will be the basis for that success. Gaining perspective is an important part of the college experience, and it all starts when you read *Federalist 10* by James Madison. You'll get this text at Summer Springboard and will be expected to read it by the time you return for 1787 in August. Reading and discussing the text, as well as attending 1787 Convocation are

take off

going to challenge you. What's the challenge? See the world differently!

Experience *Federalist 10*

On November 22, 1787 New York's Daily Advertiser published *Federalist 10*, the tenth essay by "Publius" on the merits of the Constitution being debated and voted on in the State ratifying conventions. Written by James Madison, *Federalist 10* is the most important of the eighty-five essays "Publius" wrote (and that's saying a lot).

Federalist 10 looms largest because of the central question it poses and especially because of the answer it offers. Can liberty be sustained in a large republic like the one envisioned by the proposed Constitution? Madison's answer was revolutionary. Public opinion, backed by the leading minds of the age, maintained that liberty was sustainable only in small societies. Madison challenged this belief, arguing that the primary threat to liberty in a democracy could only be met in a large nation.

Today, Madison's essay remains part of the public debate about how our democracy works. Join that debate. In your opinion, is Madison's

argument consistent with the attributes that you think are essential to democratic government?

Why read *Federalist 10*?

- While this might seem like an easy question — after all, James Madison wrote *Federalist 10*, and you are attending James Madison University — it is far more complex. By reading *Federalist 10* this summer and taking part in First Year Reading you will:
- Understand that the process of making meaning is one that only takes place over time, through dialogue and debate
 - Talk with other students about the relevance of *Federalist 10* to our current understanding and practice of democracy
 - Engage with JMU professors and staff in examining a document that continues to influence our lives
 - See that history is not something static, uninteresting, and distant
 - Find out what college-level learning is really about
 - Get a real sense of what it means to be "an educated and enlightened citizen"



Defining Democracy

A core principle of democracy is that the laws reflect the consent of the governed. But gauging consent raises practical problems. Must everyone consent to every law? How should we measure consent? These and related problems lead us to assume the legitimacy of majority rule and that majorities reflect the will of the people. *Federalist 10* reminds us that majorities do not always govern in the public interest.

As an antidote to such majorities, Madison argues in favor of a nation large in population and territory. But in doing so, does Madison undermine the conditions necessary for people to be meaningful participants in a democratic community? Anti-Federalists like George Mason thought so.

What does it mean to you to be a member of a political community? Does it presume that one will be active in public affairs and that the laws will reflect accurately one's preferences on public policy? Does the size of the community affect the quality of one's citizenship?

Do you feel you are meaningfully represented in the U.S. House of Representatives, where each member represents approximately six hundred thousand people? How about the U.S. Senate?

Check out *The One Book* web site for links, discussion boards and more information on *Federalist 10*.

JMU Fast Fact

- First Year Reading previous selections:
- 2005 and 2006: *Caucasia* by Danzy Senna
 - 2003 and 2004: *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien
 - 2001 and 2002: *A Hope In The Unseen* by Ron Suskind
 - 2000: *Home* edited by Sharon Sloan Fiffer and Steve Fiffer
 - 1999: *Ishmael* by Daniel Quinn