Federalist No. 70 Assignment

Instructions: Answer the following the questions based off Alexander Hamilton’s Federalist No. 70 essay. Be sure to answer in complete sentences and explain where appropriate.

Pre-reading questions.

1. One of the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation was that it lacked an executive branch. Why would the lack of an executive branch be an issue in the administration of government?

2. Many of the anti-federalists opposed the creation of an executive branch such as the one created in the Constitution. Why would they have been opposed to the creation of the executive branch?

Reading Questions

3. What benefits does a strong presidency provide to a representative democracy?

4. Why does a weak executive create a bad government?

5. What empire does Hamilton use as an example?

6. What are four ingredient of an energetic executive?

7. What, according to Hamilton, is the most necessary quality for a president?

8. According to Hamilton, what does history teach about have co-executives or multiple executives?

9. Why do men often oppose things? What is the consequence of this?

10. What are characteristics of the legislative branch?

11. Why is responsibility and blame more difficult to assign in an executive system with multiple leaders?

12. How does the King of England’s power differ from the American executive?

13. What does Hamilton claim about public support of his position at the end of his essay?

Analysis Questions

14. Why has the power of the President on the United States grown over time? Would the growth of this power concern Hamilton?

15. Do you agree with Hamilton’s belief that people will oppose things in some cases just because they don’t like the group that designed it?

16. Hamilton contends that it is easier to hold an individual like the President accountable than a group. Do you agree with his belief?

17. Why do you think Hamilton cites the Roman Empire and other historical examples in his essay?