Virginia Ratification Speeches Vocabulary—Middle School Version

Abominable-
Undesirable; hateful; detestable; loathsome.

Anti-Federalists-
Those who opposed the ratification of the Constitution.

Compact-
An agreement between two or more parties or states; a contract

Confederation-
A group of confederates, esp. of states permanently united for common purposes.
The 13 original U.S. states operated as a confederation under the Articles of Confederation, 1781–1789.

Constituent-
A person who allows another to act in his or her behalf, as a voter in a district represented by an elected official.

Detestation-
Abhorrence; hatred.

Dissolution-
The undoing or breaking of a bond, tie, union, partnership, etc.

Federalists-
Supporters of the ratification of the Constitution who worked for its approval or ratification. Called Federalists because of the Constitution's increase to central, or federal, authority.

Infringement-
A violation of a law, right, or obligation; violation; transgression.

Jurisdiction-
The right, power, or authority to enforce justice by hearing and deciding on cases and controversies.

Manumission-
The act of freeing from bondage, especially an enslaved person.

Preamble-
An introductory statement; preface; introduction.
The introductory statement of the U.S. Constitution, announces the general principles of American government and beginning with the words, "We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union …"

Provision-

Part of a legal agreement or law; a stipulation or proviso.

Ratify-

To approve or confirm.

Sovereignty-

The quality or state of being sovereign (self-governing; independent).

Tranquility-

Quality or state of being tranquil; calmness; peacefulness; quiet; serenity.