**Prompt: Discuss whether or not the Founders were successful in their goals for the Constitution**

**What**: They were successful

**So What:** Created a stable and lasting government

**How**: checks/balances, adaptable language, process of amendment

**Thesis:** By creating an adaptable, adjustable system that could regulate itself, the Founders of the United States were successful in creating a stable and lasting government.

**List option:** The Founders of the United States were successful in creating a stable and lasting government by using adaptable language, including an amendment process, and establishing a system of checks and balances.

**Paragraph 1:** In order to allow the Constitution to stand the test of time, the Founders intentionally used language that allowed for adapting the wording to future issues. **BTS** The Founding Fathers wrote the Constitution during a time of heightened tension when the new country was vulnerable and divided. They knew they needed to word the Constitution in a way that allowed it to change and grow as needed. **Context** At times they were simply purposefully vague, and at others it was through specific clauses that could be interpreted loosely. One example is the Elastic or Necessary and Proper Clause which states that “Congress shall have power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers.” (Constitution) **Evidence** The purpose of this clause was to allow Congress to issue laws that would help it carry out its responsibilities. They knew that the nature of their responsibilities might change as the country grew and advanced. Thus Congress may need to establish laws the Founders could not foresee themselves. While this has at times led to controversy over what is considered “necessary and proper”, it has kept the United States from having to rewrite the Constitution every time Congress must consider laws affected by advancing technology and social changes. This along with other similar clauses and intentionally vague wording have given us a document that has lasted nearly 250 years. **Analysis** In addition to a flexible language, the Founders gave the Constitution a more direct way to change with the times. **Transition**

**Paragraph 2:** The amendment process included in Article V is the greatest tool in enabling the Constitution to withstand the change that accompanies a growing nation.