

Group Activity

Below you will find the preamble (introduction) to the Constitution. The preamble explains WHY the founding fathers were writing a Constitution. There are 6 reasons listed. Read the preamble using the Glossary. Then, rewrite each reason in your own words. Remember to keep in mind the Articles of Confederation, and the problems of the USA after the Revolutionary war.

Glossary for the Preamble

- Common: pertaining to everyone
- Defense: protection
- Domestic: within the nation
- Establish: to set up
- Insure: to make sure
- Justice: fairness through laws
- Ordain: to declare
- Posterity: future generations
- Promote: to push for/support
- To secure: to make sure
- Tranquility: calm & peace
- Welfare: well-being

Preamble Text

“We the people of the United States, **in order to** form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity **do ordain and establish** this Constitution for the United States of America.”

Question Prompts

I. Defining the purposes for writing the Constitution:

- A. *Form a more perfect union:*
- B. *Establish Justice:*
- C. *Insure domestic tranquility:*
- D. *Provide for the common defense:*
- E. *Promote the general welfare:*
- F. *Secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity:*

II. Read again what you just wrote as the 6 purposes for the Constitution. **Use your words to summarize why the founding fathers wrote the Constitution.** What type of country did they want to create?

III. Do you think the United States has fulfilled its purpose as listed in the preamble?