What Is Preamble Writing?

Preamble Writing

(Ch.2 of Black Girls' Literacies)

A preamble is an introductory statement that clearly defines your identity, purpose, and commitment and manifesto of love.

Sample Historical and Contemporary Preambles

19th Century Preamble

Excerpted from Cultivating Genius by Dr. Gholdy Muhammad

We, the people of color of this city, being deeply impressed with the necessity of promoting among our rising youth, a proper cultivation for literary pursuits and improvement of the faculties and powers of their minds, deem it necessary to state, for the information of our friends, wherever situated, that we have succeeded in organizing an institution under the title of the “Philadelphia Library Company of Colored Person.” (1831)

SISTER AUTHORS PREAMBLE 2010

We, the Sister Authors, write for then, now, and later to honor those before us and to inspire those who are yet to come. We write because we will not allow those who aren't us speak for us, judge us, or tell our stories. We all bleed blood but society has chosen to look only at our skin color. In order for the world to hear our voices, we must be brave enough to let them be heard, so we write to advocate for change. While we are young, black and female, we are individuals. Our stories are uniquely beautiful.

We cannot hold it in, we write it out!

What do we learn of who they are and what they need?

Directions

Step 1: Students independently draft responses to 3 or more of the following questions.

Who are you? What do you value?

How do you express yourself?

What is the purpose and power of my leadership / advocacy?

Who will you draw strength from?

What do you commit to? What actions will you take?

What will be your legacy?

Step 2: Collective Writing

In teams, you will come together to co-construct a preamble.

1. Provide time for each group member to share their draft.
2. Look across drafts to select beautiful language.
3. What is your collective identity? We, the student authors,
4. Collaborate with the goal of combining drafts to create a preamble.
5. Write a community preamble that reflects your group identity, your purpose and power, and your commitment / legacy
6. Share your preamble to Google slides or another community platform.

Step 3: Combine the preambles to compose one final class preamble.

1. Students will have an opportunity to listen to or individually read each preamble.
2. After reviewing students, repeat the process of selecting beautiful language from the new preambles.
3. Students will come to consensus on how to combine the writings.
4. Finalize the preamble.
5. Post the preamble.