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U.S. Government  
Vocabulary, paraphrasing

### The Preamble



The Preamble is a 52-word sentence that introduces the Constitution. This very long sentence explains the purpose for writing the Constitution. Read the Preamble; then follow the directions below.

"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."

Find the meaning of each word below in a dictionary. Use the context of the Preamble above to pick the best definition for each word. Write the definitions in the appropriate boxes.

1. Union: a political unit consisting of state with a common govt.

4. tranquility: the state of being calm

7. general: affecting or concerning all or most

10. posterity: future generations

Answers may vary

2. Justice: the quality of being fair and reasonable

5. common: shared by, coming from done by more than

8. welfare: the health, happiness or fortunes of a group.

11. ordain: order or decree

3. domestic: existing inside a particular country; not foreign

6. defense: military measures for protecting a country

9. secure: protect against threats; make safe

12. establish: create set up on a permanent basis

Now it's your turn to update the Preamble. Use the definitions above to help you write a more modern version of the Preamble in the space below.

Answers may vary

We the people of the United State, in order to form a more perfect group of states. create fairness, insure a calm country, provide for the protection of all, promote the health and happiness of every citizen, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our future generations, do decree and create this Constitution

for the United States of America.

**Bonus Box:** Write a preamble for your classroom rules on the back of this page. Be sure your preamble represents the goals and needs of your class.

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