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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: _____

4. tranquility: _____

7. general: _____

10. posterity: _____

2. justice: _____

5. common: _____

8. welfare: _____

11. ordain: _____

3. domestic: _____

6. defense: _____

9. secure: _____

12. establish: _____

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.

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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