



*Constitutional Principles and
Structures: SS.7.CG.1.8*
U.S. Constitution Preamble
READING #2

Name: _____

Date: _____



SS.7.CG.1.8 Benchmark Clarification 2: Students will identify the goals and purposes of the national government as set forth in the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution (i.e., form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity).

The **Preamble** of the U.S. Constitution lists six goals and purposes of the U.S. government.

1. The first goal listed in the Preamble is “form a more perfect union.” This means that the purpose of the U.S. Constitution was to create an even better government than the one in place during the writing of the document (the Articles of Confederation).
2. The next goal in the Preamble is that the government will “establish justice”. This means the government places the law higher than any individual, including government officials. “Establish justice” also means that all people will be treated fairly and equally under the law.
3. The third goal in the Preamble is “insure domestic tranquility.” This goal means that the government will protect citizens from conflict in the country and ensure states do not go to war with each other.
4. The fourth goal in the Preamble is “provide for the common defence”. This means the government will provide one central defense against attacks from outside countries or groups.
5. The next goal is “promote the general welfare”. This means government is focused on the public interest and that every state and individual can benefit from what the government can provide. This goal relates to other goals listed in the Preamble. Establishing justice, insuring domestic tranquility, and providing for the common defense are all things that benefit the common good.
6. The sixth and final goal is “secure the blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity.” This means that by having a government focused on the common good, current and future generations will have a government that protects liberty and freedom.

Preamble - the introduction to the U.S. Constitution