

Critical Thinking Exercise.

What ideas are expressed in the Preamble?

*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 prosperity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.*

The Preamble to the Constitution explains who created the Constitution and the basic purposes of our government. “We the People” are the first words in the Preamble. These words are very important. They show that the power to govern belongs to the people. The people established the Constitution. They used it to create a government to protect their rights and their welfare.

The ideas in the Preamble are so important that you should study them carefully. To do this, first read the entire Preamble.

Instructions

Divide into 6 groups. Each group should answer the following questions about their part of the Preamble. Be prepared to explain your group’s answers to the following questions to the entire class.

1. What do the words that your group studied mean? Give an example.
2. Why is the part of the Preamble that your group studied important?
3. What does the part your group studied have to do with protecting your rights and the common good?

Group 1: “do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America”

Group 2: "establish justice”

Group 3: "insure domestic tranquility”

Group 4: "provide for common defense”

Group 5: "promote the general welfare”

Group 6: "secure the blessings of liberty”

As a group complete the work on the back.

Names of Group Members: _____

Step 1. Highlight the section of the Preamble your group is studying.

*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 prosperity, **do ordain and establish** this Constitution for the United States of America.*

Step 2. Put the section into your own words.

Step 3. Why is your section important?

Step 4. How does your section protect your rights and the common good?

Constitutional Preamble Meaning Graphic Organizer

Name: _____

Instructions: Listen carefully to each group's presentation. Based on each group's explanation of each function, complete the box to the right of the function.

| Preamble Function | Explanation |
|--|-------------|
| Group 1: "do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America" | |
| Group 2: "establish justice" | |
| Group 3: "insure domestic tranquility" | |
| Group 4: "provide for common defense" | |
| Group 5: "promote the general welfare" | |
| Group 6: "secure the blessings of liberty" | |