

Preamble Breakdown

Interpreting the
intentions of the
Preamble of the U.S.
Constitution

Benchmarks

SS.7.C.1.6

Interpret the intentions of the
Preamble of the Constitution.



Schoolhouse Rock



Bell Ringer

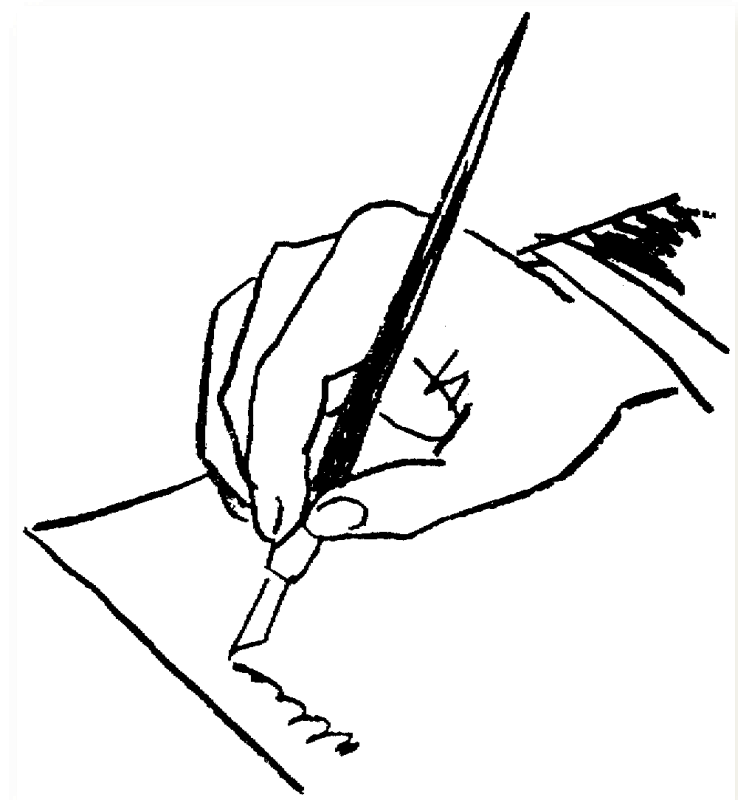
Type into the chat your answer to the following question:

What do you think was the main idea or message of the video? Give an example.

What is a Preamble?

Preamble:
An introduction

The Preamble to the U.S. Constitution- provides an *introduction* to the Constitution.



U.S. Constitution: Preamble

Benchmarks

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.

We the People of the United States,

Who are We the People ?
Every person in the United States

This means that the government depends on the people for its power and exists to serve them.



...in order to form a more perfect Union,

What is a “Union” in context of the Preamble?

The “Union” refers to the United States.

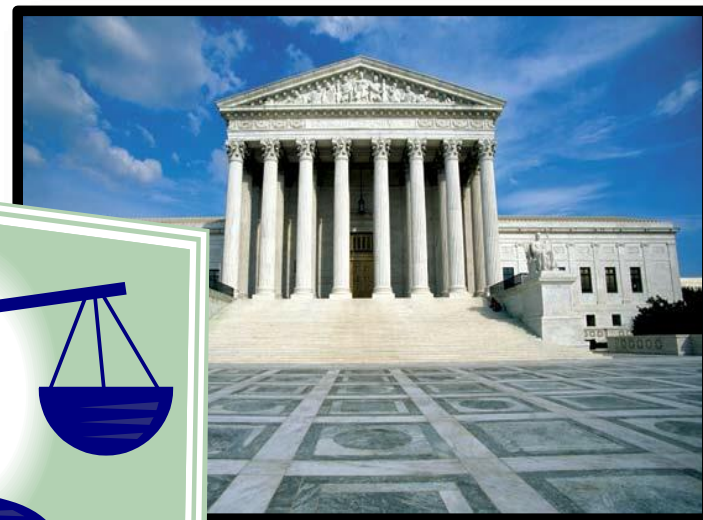


This means “to form a better country.”

...establish Justice,

What does “justice” mean?

Fairness; the act of applying or upholding the law



This means to create fairness and the rule of law in society.

...insure domestic tranquility,

What does “domestic”
mean?

Within a country



What does “tranquility”
mean?

Peace

domestic + tranquility = ?
Peace within a country

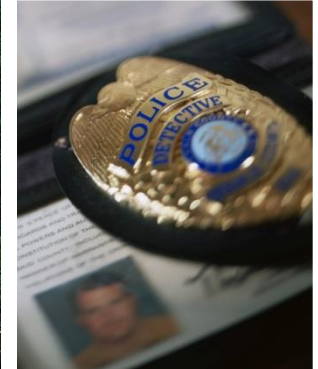


This means to maintain order and peace within the USA.

...provide for the common defense,

What does “common defense” mean?

**Security of all
people**



This means to protect the country from threats from outside.

...promote the general Welfare,

What does “Welfare” mean in the context of the Preamble?



**Well-being; being healthy, safe, happy,
and/or prospering**



**This means to make the country and its people prosperous
and successful.**

...secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity,

**What does “liberty”
mean?**

freedom

**What does “posterity”
mean?**

All future generations

**This means to make sure freedom exists in our country for us
and all who come after us.**



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

What does “ordain” mean?

Establish formally or by law



This means to establish or create the government.

Think About It

How does the government today:

Establish justice?

Insure domestic tranquility?

Provide for the common defense?

Promote the general welfare?

Secure the blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity?

Talk in your small group and provide 2 modern examples of how the government still carries out the intentions of the Preamble.

Checking for Understanding

In the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution, what is the meaning of the phrase “We the People”?

- ~~A. The people express their will through political parties.~~
- ~~B. The people express their will by directly creating laws.~~
- ~~C. Government receives taxes from the people and exists to support them.~~
- D. Government receives its power from the people and exists to serve them.