

Preamble to the Constitution for kids: Meaning of the Words of the Amendment

Preamble to the Constitution	<i>"We the People..."</i>	Meaning: A show stopping, opening phrase emphasizing the unity and resolve of all the citizens of the newly formed nation. The famous phrase "We the People" makes the Constitution the creation of the American people, not the States.
Preamble to the Constitution	<i>"...of the United States..."</i>	Meaning: The words 'the United States' again emphasizes unity by virtue of the actual name for the newly formed nation. The nation no longer consisted of colonies, it consisted of individual, but united, states.
Preamble to the Constitution	<i>"...in Order to form a more perfect Union "</i>	Meaning: The words reflect the determination to address the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation and form a strong union of many individual states.
Preamble to the Constitution	<i>"establish Justice..."</i>	Meaning: The lack of justice extended to the colonies by Great Britain was one of the main reasons for the War of Independence. To establish justice was to determine rights and administrative laws that were just or fair to all citizens
Preamble to the Constitution	<i>"insure domestic Tranquility..."</i>	Meaning: The aim to achieve a state of peace and quiet, free from stress or violence at home.
Preamble to the Constitution	<i>"provide for the common defence..."</i>	Meaning: The ability to defend the rights and lives of the citizens of the United States.
Preamble to the Constitution	<i>"promote the general Welfare..."</i>	Meaning: Aiding or promoting well-being; "for the common good". The ability to undertake governmental provision of economic assistance to persons in need.
Preamble to the Constitution	<i>"and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity..."</i>	Meaning: Patriots were fighting for liberty and freedom from the British rule in the American War of Independence. Liberty was seen as a means of happiness which promoted prosperity and welfare for the present and for all time.
Preamble to the Constitution	<i>"do ordain and establish..."</i>	Meaning: The word 'ordain' means to regulate, or establish, by decree, or law. To constitute laws by lawful authority.
Preamble to the Constitution	<i>"this CONSTITUTION for the United States of America..."</i>	Meaning: The Constitution provided the framework for a government to make, execute and interpret the laws of the new nation.

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