

## THE PREAMBLE TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

**PART A.** Read the Preamble to the Constitution paying special attention to the meanings of the words. Then use a dictionary and/or thesaurus to write the word's definition AND at least one *synonym* – words that mean the same or nearly the same – for each word listed below.



### 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 posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Word	Definition	Synonym(s)
1. perfect		
2. union		
3. justice		
4. domestic		
5. tranquility		
6. common		
7. defense		
8. general		
9. welfare		
10. blessings		
11. liberty		
12. posterity		

The Preamble tells citizens all of the goals that the government has for them. It is a list of promises for the citizens of the United States. In order to figure out what the government has promised us, we have to figure out what the Preamble means. In order to help us understand the Preamble better, rewrite the Preamble below, with your synonyms in place of the actual words.

**PART B.** Rewrite the Preamble by replacing the original wording with the synonyms you've written above. Choose your synonyms carefully to avoid changing the meaning of the Preamble.

WE THE PEOPLE of the United States, in Order to form a more \_\_\_\_\_, establish  
 \_\_\_\_\_, insure \_\_\_\_\_, provide for the \_\_\_\_\_,  
 \_\_\_\_\_ promote the \_\_\_\_\_ and secure the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ to ourselves and our  
 \_\_\_\_\_ do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Preamble to the US Constitution of the United States Evaluation

Text of 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 Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”*

For each of the 6 goals of the Preamble:

- a. give a definition
- b. give a grade from A to F on how well you think our nation has met that goal since the Constitution was written
- c. give one reason or example to justify the grade you have given

Goal	Grade	Reason
<i>“To form a more perfect union”-</i>		
<i>“Establish justice”-</i>		
<i>“Insure domestic tranquility”-</i>		
<i>“Provide for the common defense”-</i>		
<i>“Promote the general welfare”-</i>		
<i>“Secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity”-</i>		