

Preamble Purpose Hunt

Read how the Preamble explains the goals of the Constitution.

5.14.B “explain the purposes of the U.S. Constitution as identified in the Preamble; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the six purpose phrases and write one or two key words beside each to show what that purpose means.

Goals for a New Government

- ① In 1787, delegates met in Philadelphia to improve the nation’s plan of government. The Constitution begins with the Preamble, an introduction that tells why the people created this new government. Its first words, “We the People,” show that government gets its authority from the people. The Preamble names six purposes. These goals help readers understand what the Constitution is meant to accomplish.
- ② One purpose is to form a more perfect Union, meaning to help the states work together as one country. Another is to establish Justice, or fair treatment under laws. The government should insure domestic Tranquility by keeping peace and order within the country. It should also provide for the common defense, protecting the nation from dangers beyond its borders.
- ③ The final two purposes are to promote the general Welfare and secure the Blessings of Liberty. General welfare means supporting conditions that benefit people across the country, such as public health or safe travel. Liberty means people have freedoms and rights. The Preamble does not list every government action. Instead, its six purposes are broad goals that can help people judge whether an action serves the nation.

2

ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1

A rule is applied unfairly to some people. Which purpose calls for fair treatment, and what does that purpose mean?

2

How is forming a more perfect Union different from insuring domestic Tranquility?

3

How is providing for the common defense different from promoting the general Welfare?

4

What does securing the Blessings of Liberty mean?

3

YOUR TURN

Your own words

Create three possible government actions. For each action, name a different purpose from the Preamble and explain how the action supports that purpose.

GOVERNMENT ACTION	PREAMBLE PURPOSE	HOW THE ACTION SUPPORTS THE PURPOSE

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the six purpose phrases and write one or two key words beside each to show what that purpose means. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	A rule is applied unfairly to some people. Which purpose calls for fair treatment, and what does that purpose mean?	Establish Justice. It means fair treatment under laws.
2	How is forming a more perfect Union different from insuring domestic Tranquility?	A more perfect Union means helping the states work together as one country. Domestic Tranquility means keeping peace and order within the country.
3	How is providing for the common defense different from promoting the general Welfare?	Common defense means protecting the nation from dangers beyond its borders. General Welfare means supporting conditions that benefit people across the country.
4	What does securing the Blessings of Liberty mean?	It means protecting people's freedoms and rights.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

GOVERNMENT ACTION	PREAMBLE PURPOSE	HOW THE ACTION SUPPORTS THE PURPOSE
States agree on shared rules for using a river.	Form a more perfect Union	The shared rules help states work together.
Local leaders help settle a conflict peacefully.	Insure domestic Tranquility	Solving the conflict helps keep peace and order.
The government protects a person's right to speak.	Secure the Blessings of Liberty	Protecting that right supports freedom.

Accept the six Preamble purposes by their full names or clear, accurate descriptions. For Part 3, accept reasonable actions if each is matched to a different purpose and the explanation accurately connects the action to that goal.