

Student Handout 2: Analyzing 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.

Language of the Preamble	Reflections from Class Discussion
We the People	<p>1. Historical Context:</p> <p>2. How does this compare to what you think of today?</p>
to form a more perfect Union	<p>1. Historical Context</p> <p>2. Role of Perspective:</p> <p>a. Would the problems experienced under the Articles have convinced you to change our system of government? Why or why not?</p> <p>b. Why does perspective matter?</p>

establish
Justice

1. Historical Context:

2. Why might people agree about justice in the abstract, but disagree when applied to a particular situation?

insure
**domestic
Tranquility**

1. Domestic tranquility defined:

2. Historical examples of problems that disrupted domestic tranquility:

3. Contemporary examples of a lack of domestic tranquility:

<p>provide for the common defense</p>	<p>1. Historical Context</p> <p>2. Reflection:</p> <p>a. Why is military service so important to the nation?</p> <p>b. If it is so important, why is it voluntary and not mandatory?</p> <p>c. Should some service to the country be required? Why or why not?</p>
<p>promote the general Welfare</p>	<p>1. Historical Context:</p> <p>2. Examples of General Welfare:</p>

secure the
Blessings of
Liberty to
ourselves and
our Posterity

1. For whom were the Framers trying to secure the blessings of liberty?

2. Why do you think the Framers included their “posterity” in the Preamble?