

# Preamble Breakdown

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

## Benchmarks

SS.7.C.1.6

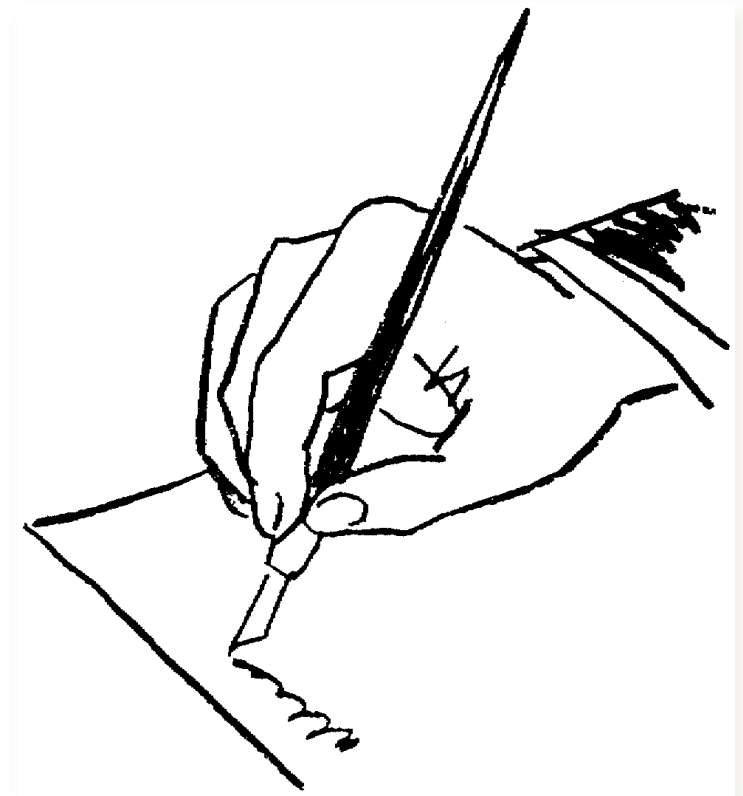
Interpret the intentions of the  
Preamble of the Constitution.



# 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.



**How would you put “in order to form a more perfect Union” in your own words?**

# *...establish Justice,*

What does “justice” mean?

Fairness; the act of applying or upholding the law



How would you put “establish justice” in your own words?

# *...insure domestic tranquility,*

What does “domestic”  
mean?

Within a country



What does “tranquility”  
mean?

Peace

**domestic + tranquility = ?**

**Peace within a country**

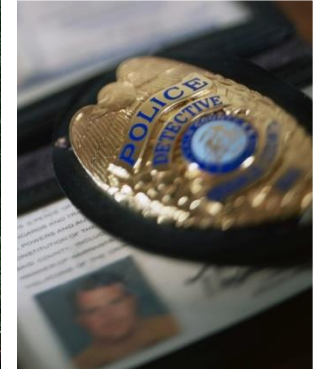


How would you put “insure domestic tranquility” in your own words?

*...provide for the common defense,*

What does “common defense” mean?

Security of all people



How would you put “provide for the common defense” in your own words?



# *...promote the general Welfare,*



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



**Well- being; the state or condition of being healthy, safe, happy, and/or prospering**



**How would you put “promote the general welfare” in your own words?**

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

What does “liberty” mean?

*freedom*

What does “posterity” mean?

*All future generations*

How would you put “Secure the blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity” in your own words?

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

**What does “ordain” mean?**

*Establish formally or by law*

**How would you put “Do ordain and establish  
this Constitution for the United States of  
America” in your own words?**

# Think About It

**How does the government today:**

**Establish justice?**

**Insure domestic tranquility?**

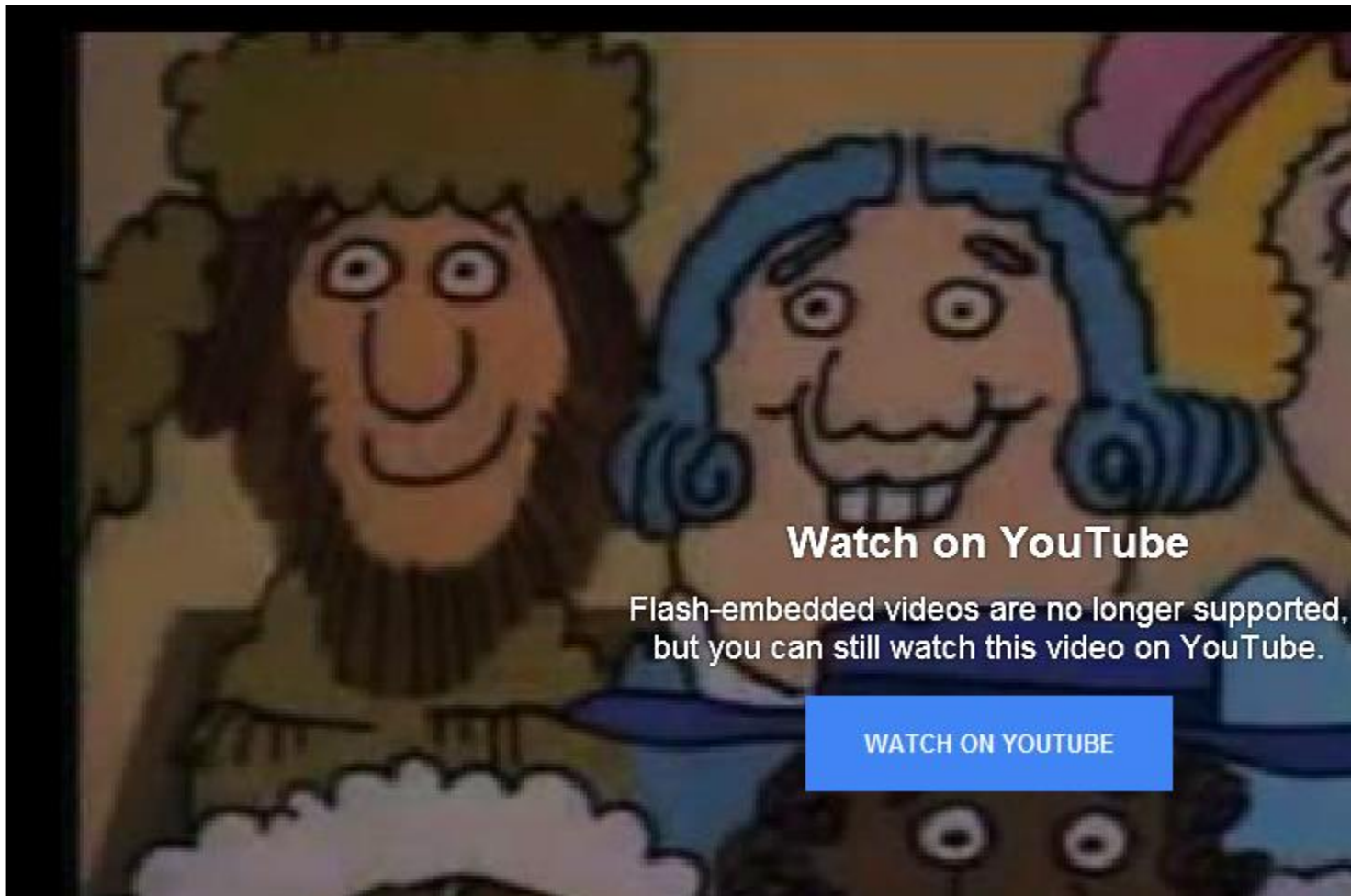
**Provide for the common defense?**

**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.**

# Schoolhouse Rock



# 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.