

Name _____

PREAMBLE



The original U.S. Constitution contained seven articles. There have been twenty-seven changes or additions to those seven articles. These changes are called amendments. The very first paragraph that precedes the actual text of the Constitution is called the Preamble. In it the men who wrote the Constitution summarize the reasons why it was written. We might better call it a *statement of purpose*.

We the representatives of the American people are creating the Constitution for the following reasons:

We the people of the United States, in
Order to form a more perfect Union,

We want a better, more efficient system
of government than was possible under
the Articles of Confederation.

establish justice,

We want all people treated fairly under
the same laws.

ensure domestic tranquility (peace),

We want to ensure a peaceful existence
within the United States.

provide for the common defense,

We want to ensure an adequate defense
against those who would be our enemies

promote the general welfare, and

We want to encourage what is good for
all the people.

secure the blessings of liberty to
ourselves and our posterity,

We want to keep our freedom and make
certain that our children and our children's
children have those same freedoms.

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

Can you summarize in a paragraph the reasons why the U.S. Constitution was written?

If a new Constitution were to be written today what reasons, other than those cited in the Preamble, would you list as reasons for writing a constitution?
