

Preamble to the U.S. Constitution

The Preamble is the introduction to the U.S. Constitution. It says:

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, 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.

Several phrases from the Preamble describe purposes or functions of government. Translate each phrase below into everyday language:

To form a more perfect Union means:

Establish Justice means:

Insure domestic Tranquility means:

Provide for the common defence means:

Promote the general Welfare means:

***News Flash!* Functions of Government**

Fix those Potholes!	Watch Out for Those Burgers!
The Transportation Department maintains the nation's interstate highway system.	The Department of Agriculture puts out the food pyramid, which helps people plan a healthy diet.
Windmills on Every Home?	Everything Has a Price!
The Department of Energy provides funding for research on wind energy.	The Treasury Department issues paper money and mints coins to be used in all of the states.
Care for Soldiers	Fighting Terrorism!
The Veterans Administration opens a new hospital to care for men and women who have served in the military.	U.S. troops prepare for a raid on an Iraqi town where terrorists are believed to be operating.
Help Is on Its Way!	Pressure on Students to Make the Grade!
The federal government provides disaster relief funding to help communities struck by floods and tornados.	Congress passes a law requiring that students be tested every year to make sure they are achieving.
Still More Tests!	Searching for a Cure
The Supreme Court hears a case on whether students can be required to take drug tests at school.	The National Institute on Aging funds a study on how long Alzheimer's patients live after they are diagnosed with the disease.
Riot in the Streets!	That's Not Fair!
The National Guard is sent in to stop rioting and looting after an earthquake.	The Justice Department charges a Chicago bank with refusing to provide services in minority communities.
Statue of Liberty Reopens!	Keeping the Skies Safe
The National Park Service announces the re-opening of the Statue of Liberty.	Armed federal marshals ride on many flights within the United States.