

Translating the Preamble to the Constitution of the United States

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.

DIRECTIONS:

The Constitution is often hailed as a marvel of brevity and of clarity. It was, however, written in the 18th century, and many of the ideas, concepts, words, phrases, and euphemisms seem odd to us today, if not downright foreign.

In Your Group:

- you are to translate the Preamble to the Constitution into language that could be easily understood by the average American of today.
- turn in one paper for each group - however, each student must **print and sign** his or her name at the bottom.