

The Preamble – Collage Project

BACKGROUND INFORMATION Symbols are an effective way to represent concepts and relationships because they allow us to creatively use images to better understand something more complex. In our class discussion of the Major Principles of the Constitution, we focused on seven concepts that are central to understanding our nation’s primary government document. By creating symbols for these concepts, we were able find a way to better understand *and* remember the concepts and meaning.

PURPOSE To understand the meaning of Preamble to the U.S. Constitution and be able to explain it in your own words and images. To describe the powers of government set forth in the Constitution. To aid you in memorizing the entire Preamble. (HSS 8.2.2, 8.2.6; ELA WA 2.2a, SA 2.5)

Preamble to the U.S. Constitution

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.

TASK & REQUIREMENTS Based on the class discussion, the Schoolhouse Rock Preamble song, and using the text of the Preamble, create a poster-sized collage that represents the six goals of government and an outline that addresses the meaning of the Preamble.

Your Preamble Collage should:

- ★ be no larger than 12x18”
- ★ be in the shape of an important U.S. symbol or monument
 - examples: bald eagle, Liberty Bell, Statue of Liberty, White House
- ★ incorporate images from magazines, the Internet, and other print sources to represent the six goals of government in the Preamble
- ★ carefully and creatively incorporate the text of the Preamble

Your Preamble Outline should:

- ★ be typed in 12pt Times New Roman with a clear title and heading
- ★ have 1 green (“The Six Goals of Government in the Preamble”)
- ★ have 6 yellows (one for each goal of government)
 - Form a More Perfect Union
 - Establish Justice
 - Ensure Domestic Tranquility
 - Provide for the Common Defense
 - Promote the General Welfare
 - Secure Liberty for Ourselves & Our Posterity
- ★ give each yellow 1 red (Es) with at least 2-3 details to explain what the goal means
- ★ give each yellow 1 orange (Commentary) with at least 2-3 details to explain what the goal means to you and how it affects you and the nation

GENERAL PROCEDURES

- Read and review the Preamble. Refer to the web we made in class. Be sure to use a dictionary and/or thesaurus to examine the meanings of the words.
- Brainstorm several options for symbols and images that you might use in your collage. Before selecting your final symbol and collage images, ask yourself the following:
 - How complicated/straightforward is the symbol?
 - What would other people think of when they see this symbol?
 - What message am I sending by using this symbol?
- Create your final poster!
- Consider and decide the ideas you would like to use in the outline to explain the Preamble:
 - What each goal of government literally means (red)
 - What each goal means to you and how it affects you and the nation (orange)
- Create your final outline!

Grading Rubric

THIS SHEET MUST BE TURNED IN WITH YOUR PROJECT

A (5)	B (4)	C (3.5)	D (3)	F (0)
Formatting & size make the poster extremely easy to view & understand	Formatting & size make the poster very easy to view & understand	Formatting & size are appropriate	Formatting & size make the poster difficult to view & understand	Formatting & size make the poster very difficult to view & understand
Shape clearly and effectively represents an important U.S. symbol or monument		Shape clearly represents an important U.S. symbol or monument	Shape does not clearly represent an important U.S. symbol or monument	
All images are extremely clear and understandable	All images are very clear and understandable	All images are appropriate	Some images lack clarity or are difficult to understand	Most or all images lack clarity or are difficult to understand
All images creatively connect to the meaning of the Preamble		All images have a connection to the Preamble's meaning	Several images need a must more direct connection to the Preamble's meaning	
All 6 goals of government are thoughtfully and clearly represented		All 6 goals are represented	1 or more goals of government are not represented or should be represented more thoughtfully/clearly	
Carefully and creatively incorporates the text of the Preamble		Uses the text of the Preamble	Needs to use the text much more thoughtfully or does not use the text at all	
Extremely thoughtful & cohesive visual presentation	Fairly thoughtful and cohesive visual presentation	Acceptable visual presentation	Visual presentation needs greater attention to overall composition	Unacceptable visual presentation
Neatness enhances overall presentation and viewers' understanding		Complete and generally neat	Lack of neatness interferes with overall presentation and viewers' understanding	

OUTLINE RUBRIC

10/9	8	7	6	5
Typed in 12pt Times New Roman with a clear title and heading	-	-	-	Not typed in 12pt Times New Roman with a clear title and heading
Contains 6 yellows for each goal of gov't	-	-	Missing 1-2 yellows	Missing 3+ yellows
Contains reds and oranges with an appropriate number of details	Contains reds and oranges with		Missing 1 or more reds/oranges OR missing several details	Missing several reds/oranges and or missing most details
All yellows, reds, and oranges are detailed, thoughtful, and clear	All yellows, reds, and oranges are clear		Some yellows, reds, and/or oranges lack detail and clarity	Most or all yellows, reds, and oranges lack detail and clarity