

Activity 2. What the Preamble Says

Student Name _____ Date _____

Directions: Read the following excerpts* from the opening of the Articles of Confederation (first three articles), the Preamble to the Constitution, and the second paragraph of the Declaration of Independence, to complete the graphic organizer below. **Bolded passages** are especially important and can be used as evidence in your answers.

**Links to complete documents are listed at the bottom of this page.*

Articles of Confederation (opening paragraphs)	Preamble to the Constitution
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The Preamble to the Constitution: A Close Reading Lesson

<p>To all to whom these Presents shall come, we the undersigned Delegates of the States affixed to our Names send greeting.</p> <p>Articles of Confederation and perpetual Union between the states of New Hampshire, Massachusetts-bay Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia.</p> <p>I.</p> <p>The Stile of this Confederacy shall be "The United States of America".</p> <p>II.</p> <p>Each state retains its sovereignty, freedom, and independence, and every power, jurisdiction, and right, which is not by this Confederation expressly delegated to the United States, in Congress assembled.</p> <p>III.</p> <p>The said States hereby severally enter into a firm league of friendship with each other, for their common defense,</p>	<p>We the People of the United States,</p> <p>in Order to form a more perfect Union,</p> <p>establish Justice,</p>
<p>the security of their liberties, and their mutual and general welfare,</p> <p>binding themselves to assist each other, against all force offered to, or attacks made upon them, or any of them, on account of religion, sovereignty, trade, or any other pretense whatever.</p>	<p>insure domestic Tranquility,</p> <p>provide for the common defense,</p> <p>promote the general Welfare, and</p> <p>secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity,</p> <p>do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.</p>

The Preamble to the Constitution: A Close Reading Lesson

1. Examine the opening three words of the Preamble the Constitution: “We the People.” Now compare that phrase with the long opening sentence of the Articles of Confederation. Apart from the length, what differences do you notice?

2. List the six goals of Preamble and find similar statements in the opening sections of the Articles.

Preamble	Opening of Articles of Confederation
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