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The Preamble Tells the Goals of Government

The delegates who _____ the Constitution chose each word carefully. Some of their best-known words come in the introduction, called the *Preamble*. The Preamble explains the reasons for the new government.

The Constitution _____ with the memorable phrase, "We the People." With these words, the delegates announced that the Constitution based its authority on the people themselves. The _____ to form the government did not come from the states or the existing government. It did not come from a sovereign ruler appointed by God. Instead, the power came from _____ Americans. This concept is known as popular sovereignty.

The Preamble then _____ the goals of the new government. First, the delegates wanted to "form a more perfect Union." This meant building a country that could take advantage of the strengths the states gained from _____ together.

The Constitution also aims to, "establish Justice." Americans wanted to be ruled by laws, not by the

_____ of soldiers or the decisions of kings. The same laws would apply to all people.

The delegates hoped that the new government would “insure domestic Tranquility.” By “Tranquility,” they meant peace and order. If the new system worked well, people would not _____ the government or each other.

The new government would “provide for the common defense.” In other words, the national government would be responsible for _____ Americans from foreign invaders. This would allow for _____ protection than if each state had its own _____ and navy.

The delegates wanted the new government to “promote the general Welfare.” This means that it could support an economy and society in which people could _____.

Finally, the delegates hoped to “secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity.” By “posterity,” the _____ meant the _____ that would come after them. They wanted Americans to enjoy freedom then and in the _____. We are the future, their posterity.

The delegates knew that these _____ required a national government, but many people were _____ of a strong central government. For this _____, the delegates tried to _____ a balanced framework that people could _____.