

# Sophomore Constitution Day Activity

## Goals:

- Celebrate the Constitution of the United States
- Recognition of the significance of that document.
- Explain the purposes of the U.S. Constitution as identified in the Preamble to the Constitution.
- Identify fundamental values and principles as they are expressed in the Preamble to the Constitution.

## Materials:

Preamble (either on doc camera/projector or copies for students)

## Procedure:

### Step #1 Discuss Constitution Day

- Established by Congress in 2005 to ensure that all American schools recognize the importance of the Constitution.
- Discuss the significance of the Constitution as a founding document and a “living” form of governance.

### Step #2 The Preamble

- Ask if anyone remembers the Preamble from 8<sup>th</sup> Grade U.S. History.
- Handout or project the Preamble to the Constitution.
- Have students read it to themselves.
- Have them circle or write down terms or parts that don’t make sense to them.
- Discuss their confusion or questions.

### Step #3 The Meaning

- After clarifying the terminology used in the Preamble, ask the students what it all means.
- Discuss the meaning of the Preamble. “What does the Preamble mean?”
- Ask them why the Framers of the Constitution decided to have this as the introduction to the whole document.
- “Why is the Constitution, thus the Preamble, so important to us?”

## Closure/Reflection:

Have the students reflect by answering the following questions...

- How is the Preamble like any introduction you would write for an essay or paper?
- Why were these things important to the Framers?
- Why is the Preamble important to you?

## Preamble

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.