The Preamble

“We, the People …”

Originally meant…

- White men
- At least 21 years old
- Educated
- Prosperous

Today it means…?

- men & women?
- race?
- sexual orientation?
- age?

The idea of self government comes from…

We the People
Better than Great Britain's

Stronger than the Articles of Confederation

"...in order to form a more perfect Union..."
A core democratic value

Presumed innocence

- where innocence is presumed until the government proves otherwise beyond a reasonable doubt.
Maintaining law and order to promote safety and stability is crucial to a good government.

- Homeland Security
  - Means peace at home
  - Sets up our police forces
The Preamble, Continued

“...provide for the common defense...”

- Set up U.S. Military Army, Air Force, Marines, Navy, Merchant Marine and Coast Guard
- The strongest country in history
The Preamble, Continued

“...promote the general welfare...”

- Originally referred to maintaining individual and economic freedom and stability
- Now has a broader meaning
- Justification for a variety of social, economic, and educational programs that help the less fortunate.
The Preamble, Continued

“...and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity...”

• Keeping freedom and fighting for it
• Safeguarding our children’s future
• Making general improvements
“...do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

makes it official. America has a Constitution that spells out what it stands for and how its government functions.
Six Goals of the Constitution:

- More perfect union
- Establish justice
- Insure domestic tranquility
- Provide for the common defense
- Promote the general welfare
- Secure the blessing of liberty to ourselves and our posterity