The Preamble

The Preamble is the introductory sentence of the United States Constitution. Like all important documents it has been revised. Compare the original to the final draft and think about the changes that were made.

Original Draft:

We the People of the States of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, South-Carolina, and Georgia, do ordain, declare and establish the following Constitution for the Government of Ourselves and our Posterity.

Final Draft:

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.

1. What is in the original draft that is not in the final draft? Why do you think this was removed?

2. What is in the final draft that is not in the original draft? Why do you think this was added?

3. Which version seems better to you? Why?

This short, simple introduction summarizes the entire purpose of the United States government. Understanding it is vital to being a productive citizen of this nation. Take some time to think about each clause of the Preamble and draw a picture to help represent it. You may need to look some of the terms up. That's okay. You have a computer.

	Visual Representation		*Visual Representation*
We the People of the United States,		in order to form a more perfect union,	
establish justice,		ensure 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,		of the United States of America.	

Now memorize it. Seriously. You will be tested on this. It's actually only one sentence!