

The Constitution

Brainstorm

List all of the things you feel a government does and/or should do for the people

List all of the duties (aka: actions required by law) and responsibilities (aka voluntary actions) of citizens

Directions: Summarize the excerpt below in your own words.

The Preamble to the Constitution: The opening section of the Constitution tells why the Constitution was written. It consists of a single, concise sentence.

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.

The Seven Articles of the U.S. Constitution: The seven articles that follow the Preamble explain how the government is to work. The first three articles describe the powers and responsibilities of each branch of government in turn. The remaining articles address more general matters.

<i>Article 1: The Legislative</i>	<i>Article 2: The Executive</i>	<i>Article 3 The Judicial</i>
<i>Article 4: Powers of the State</i>	<i>Article 5: The Amendment Process</i>	<i>Article 6: Powers of the Federal Government</i>

The form of government created by the Constitution is characterized by the following seven big ideas.

1. Popular Sovereignty: _____

2. Republicanism: _____

3. Limited Government: _____

4. Federalism: _____

5. Separation of Powers: _____

6. Checks and Balances: _____

7. Individual Rights: _____
