

C-NOTES: GOALS and PRINCIPLES OF THE CONSTITUTION*What are the goals and principles of the U.S. Constitution?*

Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The three main parts of the Constitution: <u>Preamble, Articles, and Amendments</u>
PREAMBLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The purpose of the Preamble (opening statement) is to introduce the <u>six goals of the Constitution</u>
GOALS of the Constitution	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>"To form a more perfect Union" (to unite the nation)</u> 2. <u>"To establish justice" (to apply the law fairly to all)</u> 3. <u>"To insure domestic tranquility" (to keep peace and order at home)</u> 4. <u>"To provide for the common defense" (to protect against foreign attack)</u> 5. <u>"To promote the general welfare" (to provide for the well-being of all)</u> 6. <u>"To secure the blessings of liberty" (to protect our freedoms)</u>
ARTICLES of the Constitution <i>These establish... A framework for our government</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. <u>Establishes the powers of & limits on Congress (Legislative Branch)</u> II. <u>Establishes the powers of & limits on President (Executive Branch)</u> III. <u>Establishes the powers of and limits on the Courts (Judicial Branch)</u> IV. <u>Relations between the states</u> V. <u>Amending (changing) the Constitution</u> VI. <u>Constitution is the "supreme law of the land"</u> VII. <u>Ratification (approval) of the Constitution</u>

- ◆ **Amendments** that have been added to the Constitution in **230 years**.

**PRINCIPLES
of the
Constitution**

- ◆ These Principles ensure a careful balance of **POWER** and **FREEDOM**.

- ◆ **Principle #1: Popular Sovereignty**

All government power belongs to the people.

- ◆ **Principle #2: Limited Government**

Government can do only what the people say it can do.

- ◆ **Principle #3: Separation of Powers**

Power is divided among three branches of the national government.

- ◆ **Principle #4: Checks and Balances**

Each branch of government is able to check (limit) the other branches.

- ◆ **Principle #5: Federalism**

Power is divided between the national government and the states.

- ◆ **Principle #6: Republicanism**

Citizens elect representatives to carry out the will of the people.

- ◆ **Principle #7: Individual Rights**

Individual rights are protected. (*FOCUS: Bill of Rights*)

- ◆ These **PRINCIPLES** ensure a careful balance of **POWER** and **FREEDOM**.