

C-NOTES: GOALS and PRINCIPLES OF THE CONSTITUTION

What are the goals and principles of the U.S. Constitution?

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

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♦ *How many amendments (total) have been added to the Constitution in 231 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 separate branches of government.

♦ Principle #4: Checks and Balances

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

♦ Principle #5: Federalism

Power is shared between 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.

SUMMARY