

## C-NOTES: GOALS and PRINCIPLES OF THE CONSTITUTION

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

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

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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