SS.7.C.1.6 Benchmark Clarification 1: Students will explain how the Preamble serves as an introduction to the U.S. Constitution, establishing the goals and purposes of government.

The U.S. Constitution begins with a one-sentence introduction called the Preamble. The Preamble explains the goals and purposes of the government. The Preamble begins with the phrase “We the People, of the United States” and then states six goals and purposes of the government: 1. form a more perfect union, 2. establish justice, 3. insure domestic tranquility, 4. provide for the common defence, 5. promote the general welfare, and 6. secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity. The Preamble ends with the phrase: “do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America”. The final phrase of the Preamble means that the people establish the U.S. Constitution to begin a new national government.

establish justice - make a fair and honest system for all
form a more perfect union - create an even better government that will make life better for all
insure domestic tranquility - government will protect citizens from conflict in the country and make sure that states do not go to war with each other
ordain - to establish something by law
provide for the common defence - protect the country from other countries or groups that might try to harm us
promote the general welfare - government is focused on the public interest and that every state and individual can benefit from what the government can provide
secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity - secure liberty and freedom for current and future generations