SS.7.C.1.6 Benchmark Clarification 3: Students will recognize that the intention of the phrase “We the People” means that government depends on the people for its power and exists to serve them.

The Preamble begins with the phrase, “We the People”. The writers of the U.S. Constitution began the Preamble with these words to guarantee that the people would be the source of the government’s power and that power would not fall into the hands of a single king or ruler. By starting the Preamble in this way, the writers were making it clear that the government not only receives its power from the people, but also exists to serve them. The writers of the U.S. Constitution also knew that the power of the document depended on the approval of the majority of the people.

**Preamble** – the introduction to the U.S. Constitution