

Chapter 2: State and Local Government in West Virginia
Section 1: A History of West Virginia Government

Comparing Preambles

Directions: A preamble is an introductory statement. The two preambles below introduce a state and a federal constitution. After reading each preamble, answer the questions that follow.

Preamble to the US Constitution

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States

Preamble to the West Virginia Constitution

Since through Divine Providence we enjoy the blessings of civil, political and religious liberty, we, the people of West Virginia, in and through the provisions of this Constitution, reaffirm our faith in and constant reliance upon God and seek diligently to promote, preserve and perpetuate good government in the State of West Virginia for the common welfare, freedom and security of ourselves and our posterity.

1. How many words are in each preamble? _____
2. According to each preamble, who is recognized as the source of political or governmental power?

3. What are the six purposes noted in the preamble for establishing the United States Constitution?

4. What does the West Virginia Constitution credit for the freedoms that its citizens enjoy?

5. According to the West Virginia Constitution, what will good government provide?

