



SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

SINGING THE PREAMBLE
By Donna Coffin

Activity Description

Students will learn the Preamble of the Constitution by singing it in a song.

Suggested Grade Level

Grades 4–5

Estimated Time to Complete

One class period for lesson or longer if students are to memorize lyrics

Objective

- The students will recite the words to the preamble in a song.

Materials Needed

- Copy of the words to the song, “The Preamble Way” by Schoolhouse Rock (below)
- A Schoolhouse Rock Preamble video is on YouTube

The Preamble Way

Hey, do you know about the U.S.A.?
Do you know about the government?
Can you tell me about the Constitution?
Hey, learn about the U.S.A.

In 1787 I'm told
Our founding fathers did agree
To write a list of principles
For keepin' people free.

The U.S.A. was just startin' out.
A whole brand-new country.
And so our people spelled it out
The things that we should be.

And they put those principles down on paper and called it the Constitution, and it's been helping us run our country ever since then. The first part of the Constitution is called the preamble and tells what those founding fathers set out to do.

We the people,
In order to form a more perfect union,
Establish justice, insure domestic tranquility,
Provide for the common defense,
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 of America.

In 1787 I'm told
Our founding fathers all sat down
And wrote a list of principles
That's known the world around.

The U.S.A. was just starting out
A whole brand-new country.
And so our people spelled it out
They wanted a land of liberty.

And the Preamble goes like this:

We the people,
In order to form a more perfect union,
Establish justice, insure domestic tranquility,
Provide for the common defense,
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 of America.

For the United States of America...

Note:

The lyrics here have a slightly abridged wording of the Preamble to the United States Constitution. The actual document starts, "We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union..."