



Goals of the Constitution

Goal (line from Preamble)	What does it mean?



Goals of the Constitution – Answer Key

Goal (line from Preamble)	What does it mean?
in Order to form a more perfect Union	They wanted to form a better Union, or better government where they are all working together.
establish Justice	Create just behavior or treatment for citizens.
insure domestic Tranquility	Guarantee peace within the country.
provide for the common defence	Pay for and authorize the use of the military to protect the land and citizens within the country.
promote the general Welfare	Promote the common good, or what is good for most of the people in the country.
and secure the Blessings of Liberty to Ourselves and our Posterity	Secure that this country is a free country for us and our future generations.



What Does the Constitution Really Say?

Read the articles and amendments of the U.S. Constitution. Can you find the following items in its text?

Yes No

The Air Force

The Electoral College

A government "Of the People, By the People, For the people"

The U.S. is a free country

Congress can declare war

Political Parties

No taxation without representation

Number of justices in the Supreme Court

The House of Representatives

Changes can be made to the Constitution

The right to privacy

The right to vote

The separation of church and state

The Separation of Powers Clause

"All men are created equal.."

Citizens must pay taxes

Paper money

President's term is 4 years



What Does the Constitution Really Say? – Answer Key

- | Yes | No | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | The Air Force |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | The Electoral College |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | The U.S. is a free country |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Congress can declare war |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No taxation without representation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Number of justices in the Supreme Court |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The House of Representatives |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Changes can be made to the Constitution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | The right to privacy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | The right to vote |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | The separation of church and state |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | The Separation of Powers Clause |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | "All men are created equal.." |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Citizens must pay taxes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Paper money |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | President's term is 4 years |



Explanations

1. The Air Force
 - a. Article I, Section 8 calls for a navy and an army. The Constitution was ratified in 1787, long before planes were invented.

2. The Electoral College
 - a. The concept of the presidential elector is in the Constitution, but the group of people is not collectively referred to as "The Electoral College." Article I, Section 2 mentions "Electors," as do several of the Amendments, but never the college itself.

3. A government "Of the People, By the People, For the People"
 - a. This phrase is commonly attributed to the Constitution, but it actually comes from Abraham Lincoln's speech, the Gettysburg Address, in 1863.

4. The U.S. is a free country
 - a. It is never stated in the Constitution that this country is a "free" country. The Constitution protects many of our civil rights that allow us to speak and act freely, which is where this implication comes from, but it is never explicitly stated.

5. Congress can declare war.
 - a. This is in Article I, Section 8.

6. Political Parties
 - a. Political parties are such a basic part of our political system today, however, there is absolutely no mention of political parties anywhere in the Constitution.

7. No taxation without representation
 - a. This political slogan coined to counter the Sugar Act of 1764 was an important factor leading to the American Revolution, however, this is not listed in the Constitution. Those who are underrepresented (such as convicts and immigrants who cannot vote), are still subject to taxation. The concept of "no taxation without representation" may be generally present in the foundation of the United States government, but it is not actually listed in the Constitution.

8. Number of justices in the Supreme Court
 - a. Article II, Section 1 specifies that there will be a Supreme Court.
 - b. Article I, Section 3 mentions a Chief Justice.



- c. Article II, Section 2 mentions "Judges of the Supreme Court"
 - d. Aside from those, however, the actual make-up of the Supreme Court is not defined in the Constitution. There will be a Chief Justice and other judges, but the exact number is not specified. In 1869, a law passed that set it at 9 judges, including the Chief Justice.
9. House of Representatives
 - a. Article I, Section 2
10. Changes can be made to the constitution
 - a. Article V
11. The right to privacy
 - a. The Constitution does not specifically mention a right to privacy. However, the Supreme Court has ruled in several decisions over the years that the right to privacy is a basic human right and is protected under the 9th Amendment.
 - b. In addition, the right to privacy is inherent in other Amendments in the Bill of Rights such as the 3rd and 4th search and seizure limits, and the 5th's self-incrimination limit.
12. The Right to Vote
 - a. The Constitution contains many phrases, clauses, and amendments that detail the ways people cannot be denied the right to vote, such as race or gender; you must be 18 years or older to vote; etc. However, nowhere in the Constitution does it explicitly ensure the right to vote.
13. The Separation of Church and State
 - a. The phrase "separation of church and state" does not appear anywhere in the Constitution.
 - b. Thomas Jefferson wrote that the 1st Amendment, which establishes freedom of religion, created a "wall of separation" between church and the state.
14. The Separation of Powers Clause
 - a. There is no clause in the Constitution that is called the "Separation of Powers Clause," although many people refer to it. The concept of the Separation of Powers is written into the first three articles of the Constitution.
15. "All men are created equal..."
 - a. This phrase is actually in the Declaration of Independence, not the Constitution.
16. Citizens must pay taxes
 - a. Article I, Section 8
17. Paper money



- a. The Constitution does not directly mention paper money. It does give Congress the power to “coin money,” but not paper money.
18. President’s term is 4 years
- a. Article II, Section 1