

Maggie's Civics Corner

Lesson #6 - The Constitution



Maggie says ...

In these difficult times, as our nation and the world pull together, it is more important than ever to understand our role as a citizen.

Today's lesson is about the U.S. Constitution. Dogs are great at following rules. Our parents set rules, the dog park has rules, and even the games we play have rules. The Government has to follow rules too, which are set out in the U. S. Constitution. It

lays out how the Government is structured, what it is allowed to do, and the rights of American citizens. The Constitution is "the supreme law of the land," which means all other laws that the federal and state governments make must follow the Constitution.

Preamble Practice: The Constitution begins with three famous words – "We the People." These kick off the "Preamble" to the Constitution, which is a fancy name for the paragraph that introduces the Constitution and its main goals. Read the *Preamble* below to get an idea of the purpose of the Constitution. Can you memorize it?!

We the People of the United States, 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.

Activity: Constitutions should include the rules that are the most important to that country. For example, the United States Constitution establishes that we will have three branches of government, we will not have a King, and citizens have the right to vote.

Now make up your own country – mine is called Maggie Land! What would the constitution of your own country include? Do your citizens have the right to vote? Do you have a King or Queen who is in charge? What kind of Government do you have – elected? appointed? As you develop your Constitution be sure to support (include) the reason for your wording.

Civics Resources: To learn more about the Constitution, take a look at this [interview with my mom, Judge Marjorie O. Rendell](#)

Or check out this [Schoolhouse Rock cartoon about the Preamble](#)