

# THE PREAMBLE PROJECT

## What does it mean to be an American?

On Constitution Day, join classrooms across the nation for the inaugural [Preamble Project](#) – an educational pilot program for K-12 classrooms to build a shared understanding of what it means to be American through an exploration of the preamble to the U.S. Constitution.

Students will explore questions such as: Who, in today's America, are 'We The People'? What is our purpose? How do we pursue a 'more perfect union'?

### Program Highlights & Goals

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- Students will consider how America's past shapes its present; build connections, empathy, and understanding for varying viewpoints; and develop the civil dialogue skills to participate in 21st century democracy.
- Paired classrooms with different geographic, demographic, and ideological profiles will engage in a series of 3-4 live exchanges to understand how life experiences and cultural influences shape diverse perspectives and values.
- Teachers will have access to a video library featuring prominent American scholars, historians, poets, authors, singers, scientists, artists and leaders discussing topics related to building "a more perfect union" and understanding polarization.
- Participating classrooms will be asked to participate in an online evaluation process to determine the best way to bring thoughtful, accessible, and educational civil exchanges to classrooms nationwide in September 2022.

**How can my classroom sign up?** Please visit our [website](#) to sign up.

**Which grade-levels are eligible to participate?** The pilot program is designed for the following grade-levels:

- **Middle School:** 7th or 8th Grades
- **High School:** 10th or 11th Grades

**When is the program and what is the time commitment?** All classrooms will begin the program with a live classroom exchange on Constitution Day (*Friday, September 17th*). Educators must identify a minimum of three class periods over the four weeks following Constitution Day for additional classroom exchanges.

**Who will be facilitating the conversations?** [Close Up](#), a nonprofit, nonpartisan civic education organization, will provide facilitators who are experts in leading student discussions. Each year, Close Up helps thousands of students and teachers across the nation engage in civil discourse and take informed action in their communities.

**Do students need background knowledge about the Constitution?** No, students do not need background knowledge about the Constitution or Preamble. All discussion guides, background materials and lesson plans will be provided.

**Do teachers receive supplemental resources for the classroom?** Yes! Resources include a Preamble to the U.S. Constitution discussion guide, access to the supplemental video library, lesson plans for each classroom activity, and opportunities for additional civic engagement programs throughout the school year.

**Is there a cost to participate?** No, the program is funded and free to classroom teachers.

**Questions?** Contact [classroom@closeup.org](mailto:classroom@closeup.org) with your questions or to request more information.