




The purposes of a constitution are to:

- 1) provide the framework for government
- 2) limit government authority
- 3) protect the rights of the people

1. A constitution **provides** a framework for how the government will work. The U.S. Constitution created three branches of government – legislative, executive, and judicial. The separation of powers helps to define the powers, responsibilities, and roles of each branch.
2. A constitution **limits** government authority and power. In the U.S. Constitution, the system of checks and balances limits the powers of government. This system prevents one branch from becoming more powerful than the other branches.
3. A constitution **protects** the rights of the people. The U.S. Constitution protects the rights of its citizens with the first ten Amendments --The Bill of Rights. The Bill of Rights lists the rights of the people AND explains the limit on power of the government.

Purposes	Example 1	Example 2	Example 3
<p>1. The Constitution provides the framework for government.</p> 	The Legislative Branch has the power to:	The Executive Branch has the power to:	The Judicial Branch has the power to:
<p>2. The Constitution limits the power of the government.</p> 	The Legislative Branch checks the Executive Branch is by:	The Executive Branch checks the Legislative Branch is by:	The Judicial Branch checks the Executive Branch is by:
<p>3. The Constitution protects the rights of the people.</p> 	<p>“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion...” 1st Amendment</p> <p>What is the right listed?</p> <p>How is the government’s power limited?</p>	<p>“No soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the owner...” 3rd Amendment.</p> <p>What is the right listed?</p> <p>How is the government’s power limited?</p>	<p>“The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures...” 4th Amendment.</p> <p>What is the right listed?</p> <p>How is the government’s power limited?</p>

Comparing U.S. Constitution and the Florida Constitution

<u>U.S. Constitution</u> A living document Ratified in 1788 1 large page	<u>Florida Constitution</u> A living document Current version approved in 1968 80 pages
Articles 7	Articles 12
<p style="text-align: center;">U. S. Preamble</p> <p>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</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Florida Preamble</p> <p>We, the people of the State of Florida, being grateful to Almighty God for our constitutional liberty, in order to secure its benefits, perfect our government, insure domestic tranquility, maintain public order, and guarantee equal civil and political rights to all, do ordain and establish this constitution.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">U.S. Legislative Branch Article I</p> <p>U.S. House of Representative Term: 2 years Age: 25 yrs. old Members: 435</p> <p>U.S. Senate Term: 6 years Age: 30 yrs. old Members: 100</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">FL Legislative Branch Article III</p> <p>FL House of Representative Term: 2 years Age: 21 yrs. old Members: 120</p> <p>FL Senate Term: 4 years Age: 21 yrs. old Members: 40</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">U.S. Executive Branch Article II</p> <p>Title: President Term: 4 years Age: 35 yrs. old</p> <p>Others: Vice-President Appointed Cabinet (15 members)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">FL Executive Branch Article IV</p> <p>Title: Governor Term: 4 years Age: 30 yrs. old</p> <p>Others: Lieutenant Governor Elected Cabinet (3 members)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">U.S. Judicial Branch Article III</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">FL Judicial Branch Article V</p>

<u>U.S. Constitution</u>	<u>Florida Constitution</u>
Article IV The States	
Article V Making Amendments (U.S) Proposed: 1. 2/3 US Congress proposes 2. National convention called for by 2/3 of state legislatures Ratified: 1. 3/4 State Legislatures ratifies 2. Special conventions in 3/4 of the states	Article XI Making Amendments (FL) Proposed: 1. Proposal by legislature 2. Revision commission 3. Voter initiative 4. Constitutional convention 5. Amendment or revision election Ratification: All proposals must pass with 60% voter approval
Article VI U. Constitution Supreme Law of the Land	
Article VII Ratification of the U.S. Constitution	
Amendments 27 Amendments First 10 The Bill of Rights	Amendments Amended over 120 times
Bill of Rights (U.S.)	Declaration of Rights (FL) Article I
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. freedom of religion, assembly, petition, press, and speech 2. right to bear arms 3. quartering of troops 4. search and seizure 5. due process, double jeopardy, self-incrimination, eminent domain 6. jury trial, right to counsel 7. common law suits 8. excess bail or fines, cruel and unusual punishment 9. rights not named 10. powers reserved to states 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Political power 2. Basic right 3. Religious freedom 4. Freedom of speech and press 5. Right to assemble 6. Right to work 7. Military power 8. Right to bear arm 9. Due process 10. Prohibited law 11. Imprisonment for debt 12. Searches and seizure 13. Habeas corpus 14. Pretrial release and detention 15. Prosecution for crime; offenses committed by children 16. Rights of accused and of victim 17. Excessive punishment 18. Administrative penalty 19. Cost 20. Treason 21. Access to court 22. Trial by jury 23. Right of privacy 24. Access to public records and meeting 25. Taxpayers' Bill of Right 26. Claimant's right to fair compensation 27. Marriage defined

<u>US Constitution</u>	<u>Florida Constitution</u>
	Article II General Provisions
	Article VI Suffrage and Elections
	Article VII Finance and Taxation
	Article VIII Local Government
	Article IX Education
	Article X Miscellaneous
	Article XII Schedule

The Basic Outline of both the U.S. and the Florida Constitutions

U.S. Constitution

	Preamble
I	Legislative Branch
II	Executive Branch
III	Judicial Branch
IV	The States
V	Amendment
VI	Debts, Supremacy
VII	Ratification
	Amendments

Florida Constitution

	Preamble
I	Rights
II	General provisions
III	Legislature
IV	Executive
V	Judiciary
VI	Suffrage & elections
VII	Finance and Taxation
VIII	Local Government
IX	Education
X	Misc.
XI	Amendments
XII	Schedule

Compare and Contrast the two Constitutions.

Five articles that are similar	Five articles that are different
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

**Comparing
U.S. Constitution Preamble and the Florida Constitution Preamble**

**U.S. Constitution
Preamble**

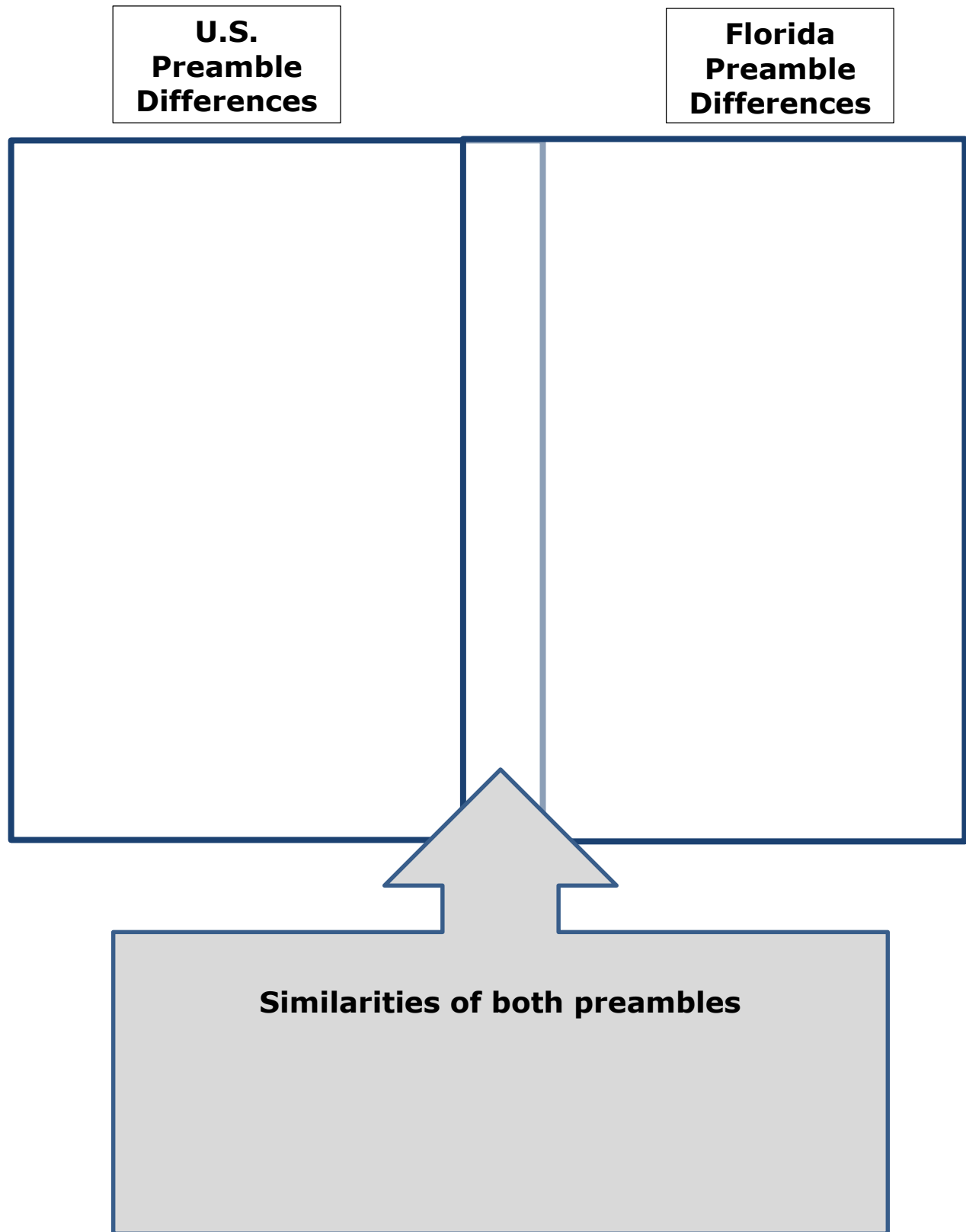
We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the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

**Florida Constitution
Preamble**

We, the people of the State of Florida, being grateful to Almighty God for our constitutional liberty, in order to secure its benefits, perfect our government, insure domestic tranquility, maintain public order, and guarantee equal civil and political rights to all, do ordain and establish this constitution.

Comparing U.S. Constitution Preamble and the Florida Constitution Preamble

Analyze both the U.S. and the Florida preambles.
Complete the Venn diagram by listing the differences and similarities of both preambles.



Amendment Process for both the U.S. Constitution and the Florida Constitution

Both the U.S. and the Florida Constitutions are “living documents” because both describe how they can be amended (changed); however, the ways they are amended are very different. The U.S. Constitution was ratified in 1788; however, it has been amended only 27 times. The current version of the Florida Constitution was approved in 1968 and it has been amended over 100 times.

Using the CER method, explain which constitution is easier to amend. Use the amendment process worksheet to support both your claim and evidence, and the reason for your response.

I **CLAIM** that the _____ Constitution is easier to amend.

The **EVIDENCE** I have for this claim is: (cite from text)

The **REASON** for this is that proposal and ratification process is much easier.

For instance, the _____ Constitution lists _____ ways to propose an amendment.

They are as follows:

The ratification process for the _____ Constitution is as follows:

This confirms that the _____ Constitution is easier to amend.

Amendment Process for both the U.S. Constitution and the Florida Constitution

U.S. Constitution Amendment Process Article V

Proposed by:

1. 2/3 both houses of U.S. Congress
2. national convention called for by 2/3 of state legislatures

Ratified by:

1. 3/4 of state legislatures
2. special conventions in 3/4 of the states

Florida Constitution Amendment Process Article XI

Proposed by:

5 different ways:

1. Both Houses of the Legislature
2. Constitutional Revision Commission
3. Taxation and Budget Reform Commission
4. Initiative of Voters
5. Call to Constitutional Convention

Ratified by:

60% voter approval