

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Why Words Matter....

## Comparing James Wilson's Draft of the Preamble to the United States Constitution to the Final Version

**Directions:** Read each version of the Preamble and underline where the differences are and then complete the questions below.

**Second draft by James Wilson (August 1787) -**

[http://digitallibrary.hsp.org/index.php/Detail/Object/Show/object\\_id/10128](http://digitallibrary.hsp.org/index.php/Detail/Object/Show/object_id/10128)

**Final Draft of the Constitution – Taken from the *Daily Advertiser*, September 19, 1787 -**

[http://digitallibrary.hsp.org/index.php/Detail/Object/Show/object\\_id/2191](http://digitallibrary.hsp.org/index.php/Detail/Object/Show/object_id/2191)

Draft by James Wilson	Final Draft
<p>We the People of the States of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia do ordain, declare and establish the following Constitution for the Government of ourselves and of our Posterity.</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>

1. Why do you think it was important to the Founders to list the individual states in the Wilson Draft?  
Why do you think the different state names were taken out?

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2. What are some of the principles or goals expressed in the final version of the Preamble compared to the Wilson draft?

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3. Which version of the Preamble best exemplifies the principle of Popular Sovereignty? Why and give an example.

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4. Do you think one of these versions advocates for stronger state governments? Why?

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5. Which version of the Preamble best exemplifies the principle of Federalism? Why and give an example.

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