

GLOSSARY AND CREDITS

VOCABULARY

active	involved and striving to reach a goal
affirmative action	a policy that seeks to favor those who have been historically discriminated against, such as minorities and women
anonymity	the state of being hidden from detection, secretive, and unrecognized
bandwagon	Giving the impression that everyone is involved, so the listener should join the group.
biased	stereotyped against; prejudiced
bond slave	A servant under complete submission to his master.
Boys State	Youth organization designed to encourage young men to learn about government.
cabinet members	Person appointed to head an executive department of the United States Government.
campaign debt	Deficit incurred due to the expenses of a political effort.
card-stacking	The candidate recalls good things he has done, omitting facts that would justify his defeat.
censorship	the act of removing what may be considered objectionable to people
citizen	a native or naturalized subject of a nation
civic responsibility	the preferred actions and attitudes a citizen takes toward the citizen's country
civil rights	rights and privileges owed to a citizen, including the freedoms of speech and of worship

compromise	an agreement reached by mutual concession
conscientious	Following one's principles.
consensus	majority agreement in matters of opinions
constitutional rights	Freedoms and opportunities granted and given to the citizens of the United States.
contemporary	of the present time; recent
debating team	Group that competes with others in order to study the value of communication.
discrimination	unfairness in judgment; prejudice; partiality
diverse	Distinct; different.
editorial	opinion section of a newspaper; many times also known as "Letters to the Editor"
editorial page	opinion page of the newspaper, where readers and writers express their views
Emancipation Proclamation	stated, "Slaves within any State shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free"
endowed	supplied with; given as a help
engagement	the state of actively working to promote and enhance an organization
equal access	the policy of giving every political party the same amount of radio or TV broadcast time at the same time of day
ethnic	refers to a common ancestry, nationality, or culture (including language and religious beliefs and practices) of a group of people
factually	Without any danger of error; basing actions on the truth.
Federal Communication Commission	a governmental agency that oversees the communications industry in America and enforces broadcast laws

First Amendment	States Congress shall not make a law to establish a religion, or prohibit free worship.
glittering generalities	Using wide-spread universal terms that do not deal with the specific issues at hand.
group identity	the affiliation among a particular culture, association, or people
heir	Those eligible for an inheritance.
influencing	exercising power to produce a desired result
jargon	special and technical words used by a particular profession that are difficult for others to understand
localized	Confined to a smaller region; "closer to home."
multi-cultural	Having diverse human thinking, beliefs, and backgrounds within a society.
name calling	Using broad accusations and negative attacks to hurt the reputation of an opponent.
nationality	the state of belonging to a nation by virtue of birth or naturalization
neutral	Belonging to neither side; uninvolved.
overturned	Reversed; changed the outcome.
passive	not participating; inactive
patriotism	Using nationalistic terms to give the impression of being zealous for the country's welfare.
personal responsibility	the actions and attitudes an individual chooses to adopt in that guide that person's daily living
plain folks	Projecting an image of being one of the common people.
policy	plan; course of action
political agenda	set of issues or policies laid out by political groups

political science	The study of the principles of government and the electoral process.
politics	The science and activity of governing and social leadership.
prejudices	biases; stereotypical attitudes
pressure group	a group that tries to influence or sway public policy
propaganda	material distributed by the proponents of a cause to support their viewpoint
propagandizing	To inform and make known the opinions and feelings of oneself.
public opinion	the collective feelings of the population of an area; it may or may not have factual basis
purge	To thoroughly clean out; to purify.
racketeer	a person who obtains money illegally, sometimes by threat of physical violence
religious affiliation	identification with a church or belief; adherence to a certain faith
reputation	The estimation of a person; the public perception of a person.
reversed	changed; headed in the opposite direction
ruling	A decision handed down from the court.
scandal	An issue that is a public shame, performed by an official in an illegal or unethical manner.
social class	A level of society.
social rewards	benefits that citizens of our society can enjoy; awards based on achievement
sound bite	a short clip of TV footage that may cut a speaker's words to a few seconds of time
special interest groups	an organization seeking or receiving special advantages through political lobbying

stereotyping	Acting in a biased manner; using prejudicial thinking.
testimonial	Using well-known personalities in the hopes of identifying with some of their glamour.
treasury	Where the funds are received, kept, and disbursed.

[Vocab Arcade](#)

Lesson 2

[DISCRIMINATION: Click here to read a New York Times article about the Nazi Buchenwald concentration camp.](#)

Lesson 4

[Click here to see the diversity in our nation as provided by the U.S. Census Bureau](#)

[Click here to find out how the Gallup Poll organization works!](#)

Lesson 5

[Learn to Evaluate Internet Sites.](#)