

Contemporary American Society
Vocabulary Review Sheet
January 25, 2022

- 1. Persecution**—The mistreatment (bad treatment) of an individual or a group by another group because of something about them, such as their race, their religion, or whether they are a woman or a man.
- 2. Discrimination**—An action or practice that excludes, disadvantages, or differentiates between individuals or groups of individuals on the basis of some quality that either exists or is thought to exist.
- 3. Direct Discrimination**—When a person or a group is treated worse than another person or group for obvious reasons, e.g., their age.
- 4. Indirect Discrimination**—When a person or a group of people are treated the same, but certain people are put at a disadvantage because of this.
- 5. Prejudice**—An opinion about someone simply based on that person’s membership in a particular group.
- 6. Historical persecution**—Persecution that has existed in history.
- 7. Exclusion**—A social disadvantage that prevents an individual or a group from participating fully in the society in which they live.
- 8. Segregation**—Separation of groups of people with different characteristics, and usually treating them unequally.
- 9. Harassment**—Unwanted behavior by a person with more power toward a person with less power that frightens or damages the character or reputation of the harassed person.
- 10. Ethnicity**—Recognizes the differences between people mostly because of their national or cultural traditions.
- 11. Racism**—Prejudice or discrimination toward a person or a group based on their shared physical qualities, such as the color of their skin.
- 12. Gender**—Characteristics of a person as either a female or a male.
- 13. Internment camp**—a prison camp for people with ties to an enemy during a war.

Contemporary American Society
Vocabulary Review Sheet
February 1, 2022

- 1. Native American**—A nonwhite original inhabitant of the United States; also known as an American Indian.
- 2. Stereotype**—A widely held image or idea about a particular person or thing.
- 3. Colony**—A group of people of one nationality or ethnic group living in a foreign country.
- 4. Colonist**—A settler or person who lives in a colony.
- 5. Puritan**—A member of a group of English Protestants of the 16th and 17th centuries who fought to live according to their own religious beliefs.
- 6. Pilgrim**—A person who travels to a place for religious reasons.
- 7. Settler**—A person who moves with a group of others to live in a new country or area.
- 8. Society**—A group of people with common territory, interaction and culture.
- 9. Culture**—The languages, customs, beliefs, rules, arts, knowledge, identities and memories developed by members of all social groups that make their social environment meaningful.
- 10. Inequality**—The unequal and unfair distribution of opportunities and rewards that increase power, prestige and wealth for individuals or groups.
- 11. Diversity**—Differences in social categories like race, religion, ethnicity, gender and nationality.
- 12. Refugee**—A person who leaves a country because of fear either for economic or political reasons.
- 13. Assimilation**—The process whereby individuals or groups of different ethnicities are absorbed into the dominant culture of a society.

Contemporary American Society
Vocabulary Review Sheet
February 8, 2022

- 1. Religious persecution**—The systematic mistreatment of an individual or a group as a response to their religious beliefs or connection to a religious group.
- 2. Denomination**—A subgroup of a religion that operates under a common name, tradition and identity. The term describes various Christian denominations, for example Anglicanism and the many types of Protestantism.
- 3. Propaganda**—The spreading of information—facts, arguments, rumors, half-truths or lies—to influence public opinion.
- 4. Intolerance**—A lack of respect for practices or beliefs other than one’s own. It also refers to the rejection of people whom we see as different.
- 5. Martial law**—A military government, involving the suspension of ordinary (civil) law.
- 6. Christianity**—The religion based on Jesus of Nazareth and his teachings, or its beliefs and practices. It is the largest religion in the world.
- 7. Muslim**—A person who follows or practices Islam, the second-largest religion in the world, and considers the Quran to be the word of God.
- 8. Judaism**—The world’s oldest religion that believes that there is only one God; it comprises the religious, cultural and legal traditions of the Jewish faith.
- 9. Antisemitism**—Hostility to or prejudice against Jewish people.
- 10. Mormon**—A member of the Church of Jesus Christ and Latter-Day Saints, a religion founded in the US in 1830 by Joseph Smith.
- 11. Protestant**—A member or follower of any of the Western Christian churches that are separate from the Roman Catholic Church , including the Baptist and Presbyterian churches.
- 12. Hate crime**—A crime, often violent, motivated by prejudice.
- 13. Pioneer**—A person who is among those who first enter or settle in a region.
- 14. American Revolution**—A revolt against Britain that occurred in the colonies between 1765 and 1791. The Americans in the colonies defeated the British and thus won independence.
- 15. Anglicanism**—A form of Christianity that developed from the practices of the Church of England in the mid-16th century.
- 16. 9/11**—The September 11, 2001 attacks on the US by the militant terrorist group al-Qaeda.

Contemporary American Society
Vocabulary Review Sheet
February 15, 2022

- 1. Ethnicity**—The culture that a person belongs to, which can include their nationality, religion, language, history and customs.
- 2. Self-identification**—How a person chooses to describe their ethnicity.
- 3. Heritage**—A person’s sense of family identity, including their values, culture and customs, which is handed down by previous generations.
- 4. Ethnic persecution**—The violation of human rights based on the ethnicity of a person or a group.
- 5. Classification**—The first stage of ethnic persecution, which involves creating an ‘us’ and a ‘them.’
- 6. Symbolism**—The second stage of ethnic persecution, in which people in power create symbols to represent the different groups.
- 7. Dehumanization**—The third stage of ethnic persecution, which consists of making the targeted group seem less human.
- 8. Genocide**—Mass murder in order to destroy a national, ethnic, racial or religious group.
- 9. Ethnic cleansing**—The forced removal of an ethnic, national, racial or religious group from a certain area, and may include removing any evidence of their existence.
- 10. Trail of Tears**—The forced relocation of approximately 100,000 Native Americans in the 1830s, in which thousands of people died.
- 11. Massacre**—The violent killing of a large number of people.
- 12. Slavery**—The state of being a slave, who is someone forced to work for a master who decides their location and who holds the slave as their property.
- 13. Declaration of Independence**—The document adopted by the 13 colonies in 1776, during the American Revolution, that explains why the colonies regarded themselves as independent states, no longer under British rule.
- 14. Civil rights**—Guarantees of equal opportunities and equal protection under the law, regardless of a person’s race, religion or other personal quality that identifies the person.
- 15. Ku Klux Klan**—An American white terrorist and hate group that believes that they are superior and therefore should control society.
- 16. Lynching**—The killing of someone, especially by hanging, for a crime, without proof or a legal trial.

17. Crimes against humanity—Certain acts purposefully committed as part of a widespread or organized attack against people not in the military or on the police force.