

GLOSSARY

CIVICS AND GOVERNMENT

Bill of Rights: First Ten Amendments to the Constitution. Ratified in 1791, these Amendments limit government power and protect basic rights and liberties of individuals.

Citizen: Member of a political society who therefore owes allegiance and is entitled to protection by and from the government.

Citizenship: Status of being a member of a state; one who owes allegiance to the government.

Civic life: A manner of existence of an individual concerned with the affairs of communities and the common good rather than solely in pursuit of private and personal interests.

Civic responsibilities: Obligation of citizens to take part in the governance of the school, community, tribe, state, or nation.

Civil disobedience: Refusal to obey laws. This tactic is usually passive and nonviolent, aimed at bringing injustices to the attention of lawmakers and the public at large. An example of civil disobedience was the American Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s and 1960s.

Civil rights: Protections and privileges given to all United States citizens by the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

Civil society: The spheres of voluntary individual, social and economic relationships and organizations that although limited by law are not part of governmental institutions.

Democracy: Form of government in which political control is exercised by the people, either directly or through their elected representatives.

Equal protection: An idea that no individual or group may receive special privileges from nor be unjustly discriminated against by the political authority of the legal system.

Equality: The condition of possessing substantially the same rights, privileges and immunities, and being substantially responsible for the same duties as other members of society.

First Amendment: The First Amendment of the Bill of Rights was ratified in 1789. Includes five basic protections for the individual citizen: Freedom of religion, Freedom of speech, Freedom of the press, Freedom of assembly, and Right to petition.

Individual responsibility: Fulfilling the moral and legal obligations of membership in society.

Individual rights: Just claims due a person by law, morality or tradition as opposed to those due to groups.

Interest group: Organized body of individuals who share the same goals and try to influence public policy to meet those goals.

Liberty: Freedom from restraint under conditions essential to the equal enjoyment of the same right by others.

Limited government: A legal structure where officials in authority do not have enormous power. The Constitution of the United States limits government through methods of checks and balances.

Lobbyist: A person from a special interest group who works to sway lawmakers toward their point of view.

Personal rights: Private legal privileges and decisions that individuals are free to participate in without intervention from government. Personal rights would include the right to vote, petition, assemble, and seek public office.

Speech Limitation: That freedom of speech is not absolute. Society and the legal system recognize limits on the freedom of speech. Terms under which limitations are imposed include:

Clear and Present Danger: The First Amendment does not protect speech that “create[s] a clear and present danger that will bring about evils the government has a right to prevent.” These are the words of the Supreme Court in 1919.

Fighting Words: The English language has a number of words and expressions which by general consent are provocative. This includes hateful speech, or words that are likely to cause a breach of the peace.

Libel and Slander: Speech that constitutes dishonesty intended to defame or damage the reputation of a person or an organization, either in speaking or in writing.

Obscenity: In *Miller v. California* (1973), three questions must receive affirmative responses for material to be considered obscene:

1. Would the average person, applying contemporary community standards, viewing the work as a whole, find the work appeals to the prurient interest?
2. Does the work depict or describe sexual conduct in a patently offensive way?
3. Does the work taken as a whole lack serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value?

Conflict with Other Legitimate Social or Governmental Interests: Speech that conflicts with other compelling interests. For example, there may be reasons to restrict First

Amendment rights because of conflicts with national security.

GLOSSARY

ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Aesthetics: A branch of philosophy that focuses on the nature of beauty, the nature and value of the arts, and the inquiry processes and human responses they produce.

Aesthetic criteria: Standards on which to make judgments about the artistic merit of a work of art, derived from cultural and emotional values and cognitive meaning.

Aesthetic response: A philosophical reply to works in the arts.

Artistic choices: Selections made by artists in order to convey meaning.

Arts resource: An outside community asset (e.g., performances, exhibitions, performers, artists).

Assess: To analyze and determine the nature and quality of the process/product through means appropriate to the art form.

Community: A group of people who share a common social, historical, regional or cultural heritage.

Contemporary technology: Tools, machines or implements emerging and used today for the practice or production of works in the arts.

Context: A set of interrelated background conditions (e.g., social, economic, political) that influence and give meaning to the development and reception of thoughts, ideas or concepts and that define specific cultures and eras.

Create: To produce works in the arts using materials, techniques, processes, elements, principles and analysis.

Critical analysis: The process of examining and discussing the effective uses of specific aspects of works in the arts.

Contextual criticism: Discussion and evaluation with consideration of factors surrounding the origin and heritage to works in the arts and humanities.

Normal Criticism: Discussion and evaluation of the elements and principles essential to works in the arts and humanities.

Intuitive Criticism: Discussion and evaluation of one's subjective insight to works in the arts and humanities.

Formal Criticism: Discussion and evaluation of the elements and principles essential to works in the arts and humanities.

Intuitive Criticism: Discussion and evaluation of one's subjective insight to works in the arts and humanities.

Critical process: The use of sequential examination through comparison, analysis, interpretation, formation and testing of hypothesis and evaluation to form judgments.

Critical response: The act or process of describing and evaluating the media, processes and meanings of works in the arts and making comparative judgments.

Culture: The way of life of a group of people, including customs, beliefs, arts, institutions and worldview. Culture is acquired through many means and is always changing.

Elements: Core components that support the principles of the arts.

Genre: A type or category (e.g., music - opera, oratorio; theater - tragedy, comedy; dance - modern, ballet; visual arts- pastoral, scenes of everyday life).

Humanities: The branch of learning that connects the fine arts, literature, languages, philosophy and cultural science. The humanities are concerned with the understanding and integration of human thought and accomplishment.

Improvisation: Spontaneous creation requiring focus and concentration.

Multimedia: The combined use of media, such as movies, cd-roms, television, radio, print and the internet for entertainment and publicity.

Original works in the arts: Dance, music, theatre and visual arts pieces created by performing or visual artists.

Principles: Essential assumptions, basic or essential qualities determining intrinsic characteristics.

Style: A distinctive or characteristic manner of expression.

Technique: Specific skills and details employed by an artist, craftsman or performer in the production of works in the arts.

Traditions: Knowledge, opinions and customs a group feels is so important that members continue to practice it and pass it onto other generations.

Traditional technology: Tools, machines or implements used for the historical practice or production of works in the arts.

