



## Glossary of Terms

**abuse:** treatment that is unkind, cruel or unfair. Example: I do something to stop it if I see *abuse*.

**advocate:** a person who supports or speaks in favor of something. Example: The owner of the company was an *advocate* for women's rights.

**affordable:** able to be paid for without much difficulty. Example: The car was *affordable*, so I bought it.

**art:** a form of expression involving the creation of works with beauty, imagination and the intention to communicate new ideas in a creative way. Example: *Art* makes our world beautiful and interesting.

**article:** a section of a document that deals with a particular point. Example: There are 30 *articles* in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

**assembly:** the gathering together of people to discuss or work on a common purpose; a meeting of people to work together to accomplish something. Example: The *assembly* of her friends at the park was to start a human rights club.

**asylum:** protection or safety from danger or harm provided by a safe place to be. Example: When his rights were threatened, the writer hoped for *asylum* in Australia.

**boarding school:** a school where students also live and eat; it is away from home. Example: She enjoyed going to a *boarding school* out in the countryside.

**cancel:** to examine books, speeches, news stories, movies, mail, etc. and order that they be changed or removed, so that people can't see or hear them, because someone thinks they are harmful. Example: The administration may *cancel* the books being placed in their library.



**chorus:** a repeated part of a song, sometimes sung by all the singers together.

Example: The *chorus* was repeated many times and all the students joined in.

**citizen:** a person who has a right to live in a country because he was born there or because he has been accepted with full rights in that country. Example: I am a *citizen* of France.

**committed:** feeling strongly about something and willing to work hard for it; dedicated. Example: He was *committed* to improving human rights in his country.

**communication:** sending an idea or image across to another person to be received and understood. Communication can take place using the voice, writing, performance, music, photographs and other creative or practical means. Example: When I looked at the painting, I understood the artist's *communication* about best friends.

**concerted:** planned or done by two or more people working together or with the same goal. Example: The team won through the *concerted* efforts of all team members.

**contempt:** viewing or treating someone as low or worthless. Example: The man had *contempt* for people who use violence to get what they want.

**copyright:** the legal right to be the only one to make copies of a piece of writing, art, photograph, music or other artistic creation. If you created it, it's yours, unless you give permission for someone else to copy it. Example: A *copyright* will protect you from people who copy your song and sell it to make themselves money.

**court:** a meeting of all persons who are involved in a situation that needs a legal judgment or decision. This might be to determine if someone has committed a crime or to settle a disagreement or to reach a decision about how the law will be carried out in a particular situation (case). A court usually consists of a judge or judges, a jury, lawyers and the people who assist them. Example: The *court* will continue tomorrow morning.

**culture:** art, music, literature (the valuable, creative written works of a society), ideas, scientific progress and other creations of a people or people in general. Example: I enjoy *culture* when I can listen to music with my friends.

**debate:** an organized discussion of something in public; usually two people or two teams who each take an opposite view about an idea and take turns discussing their opinions. Example: The *debate* began after the teams shook hands.

**declaration:** the act of announcing or making something known; a document showing that those who signed it are showing their agreement with certain ideas. Example: He signed the *declaration* yesterday.

**democracy:** a form of government in which the country's people can participate and vote for how the country is to be run. Example: In our *democracy*, each person's thoughts count.

**detained:** kept from going; held back; delayed. Example: The man wanted to know why he was *detained*.

**detainment:** the condition of being detained or being kept from going. Example: The man wanted to know why he was kept in *detainment*.

**dignity:** a proper sense of pride and respect. Example: Their mother kept her *dignity* despite being very poor.

**disabled/disability:** having a condition of being unable to move, work or act in a usual or healthy way; unable to perform some basic daily tasks without difficulty. Example: The girl with *disabilities*, though in a wheelchair, was the top student in her class and well liked by all.

**discriminate:** to show an unfair difference in treatment; to deny equal rights to certain groups of people. Example: Ignorance and poor education can cause people to *discriminate* against individuals of a particular religion.

**discrimination:** an unfair difference in treatment; denying equal rights to certain groups of people. Example: That company hires people without *discrimination*; they hire based on ability.

**duty:** a moral or legal obligation; a responsibility. Example: I have a *duty* to help my mother and father.

**education:** the acquiring of knowledge and ability, usually through teaching and learning, especially at a school or similar place. Example: *Education* is most valuable when we do something with our learning.

**elude:** to keep from being seen, understood or remembered by. Example: He managed to *elude* authorities by fleeing to a different country.

**enumerating:** the act of counting or naming, one by one; listing. Example: He wrote a letter *enumerating* his list of complaints.

**equal:** having the same status, rights or opportunities as another or others. Example: Both the girls have an *equal* chance to enter the tennis competition.



**expression:** the communicating of thoughts or feelings through spoken or written words, art, entertainment, etc. Example: Maria was good at the *expression* of her ideas because she knew many words.

**fair:** honest, according to what is right, following the rules; not based on prejudice or meanness. Example: The coach made a *fair* decision in choosing the winner.

**fairly:** in a fair, honest, reasonable way. Example: The boy was treated *fairly* after he told the teacher what he had done.

**free:** able to do, act or think as one pleases; not under the unwanted control of another. Example: We are *free* when we can make choices about our jobs, our education, care of our bodies and which religion we believe in or choose not to believe in.

**freedom:** ability to be, to do and to have or to not be, not do and not have what one wants. Example: Her *freedom* increased when she learned her human rights.

**gender:** the state of being male or female. Example: It is difficult to tell the *gender* of some birds.

**gossip:** chatter with no helpful purpose about other people and their personal matters when they are not present, especially using false or incomplete data to embarrass the person or make them seem less. Example: The men *gossiped* about their boss until the boss walked in.

**government:** the person or persons authorized to administer the laws; the ruling power; the administration. Example: The *government* of the United States is based in Washington, DC.

**hafta:** a slang pronunciation of “have to,” meaning must or need to. Example: I *hafta* go to the store for some milk.

**human:** of, relating to, or characteristic of people or human beings. Example: We are educating others for the survival of the *human* race.

**human rights:** every person is entitled to certain fundamental rights, simply by the fact that he or she is a human being. These are called *human rights*. They are not *simply* a privilege, which can be taken away at someone’s whim. They are *rights* because they are things one is legally and morally entitled to as part of one’s existence. Example: Without knowing your *human rights*, it is difficult to have them or keep them.

**human trafficking:** the buying, selling and transport of human beings for profit. These people are forced to work in inhuman conditions or in illegal occupations

with little or no hope of escape. Example: *Human trafficking* is not only a situation in developing countries but instances can be found in major nations as well.

**in vain:** without success, not accomplishing what is intended. Example: He searched for his shoe *in vain*.

**innocent:** blameless; free from guilt or wrong; not doing harm. Example: The boy was *innocent* of taking the cookies.

**judge:** a person, usually an experienced lawyer, who is given the power to supervise trials or other law cases and decide what laws apply. Sometimes a judge hears the facts and then makes the decision needed in a legal case without a jury. Example: The *judge* said the man could not give his opinion and try to say it was a fact.

**judgment:** the ability to come to opinions about things; power of comparing and deciding; understanding; good sense. Example: Every rule should be applied with understanding and *judgment*.

**jury:** a group of people chosen to listen to the evidence in a law trial and then to reach a decision or verdict. Example: Being on a *jury* requires one to pay attention to facts and evidence in order to seek truth.

**justice:** being fair and right, especially in the way decisions are made in applying rules or the law. Example: The man asked for *justice* when lies were printed about him in the paper.

**kangaroo court:** 1. people who decide to have a trial, done in their own way, against someone they want to find wrong things about or punish. It is done without respect for human rights or the truth. Example: The *kangaroo court* was held by thieves at midnight in the woods.

2. any court that appears to be dishonest and in which the principles of law and justice are ignored or where a court delivers a judgment that seems to have been decided in advance. Example: Newspapers said the trial did not represent justice, but was a *kangaroo court*.

**law:** a system of rules made by a government for all the people in a town, state or country. Example: The *law* used to be made by kings and queens; now it is made by people who are elected.

**lawyer:** a person who has been trained in the law, especially one whose profession is advising others in matters of law or representing them in legal situations. Example: I asked my *lawyer* to determine if my plan was legally correct.



**life:** the condition that distinguishes animals and plants from inanimate matter, including growth and continual change preceding death; the state of being alive as a human being. Example: She doesn't want to die; she loves *life*.

**literate:** able to read and write. Example: It is a joy to be *literate* and able to read good books.

**meet:** to get together with somebody or a number of people to discuss, plan, do things, etc. Example: Let's *meet* next week to practice some songs.

**nationality:** the status of belonging to a particular nation. Example: Because he was a citizen of Spain, his *nationality* is Spanish.

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**nemesis:** punishment, getting back at someone because they deserve it or seem to deserve it, bringing someone down. Example: *Nemesis* creates fuel for more hatred and no one really wins, especially the hater.

**opportunity:** a good chance; a situation that will help achieve a goal or desire. Example: The boy has an *opportunity* to learn how to play football.

**order:** a peaceful condition in which people obey the rules and respect one another. Example: When there is *order* in our city, we can walk around without worry.

**pirate:** to use or reproduce somebody else's work without their permission in order to make money (illegally). Example: He was caught *pirating* a CD.

**pledge:** a promise or agreement that shows true and honest intention to do or provide something. Example: The godparents *pledged* to love and teach their new godchild right from wrong.

**prejudice:** a bad idea of or a dislike of someone, before knowing much about them, based on a false idea of their group, race, religion, etc. Example: Sadly, her *prejudice* prevented her from enjoying the company of some very wonderful people.

**primary school:** in a number of countries, this means the most basic education from kindergarten through 6th grade. The usual ages would be 5 years old to eleven or twelve. Example: In *primary school* we learned to read, write and calculate.

**privacy:** freedom from secret observation, intrusion or attention of others; freedom from unwanted and enforced observation, intrusion or attention of others. Example: My *privacy* was violated when the girl across the street looked into my kitchen for two hours with her binoculars.

**protocol:** a standard procedure or exact plan for research or scientific experiments.

Example: As a scientist, she had to follow the *protocol* for each experiment precisely.

**prove:** to show that something is true or correct. Example: He was able to *prove* the girl set the alarm off.

**rebuttal:** an act of saying something is not true or correct by presenting facts or convincing reasons; disprove. Example: The girl had a lot of facts to use in her *rebuttal*.

**religion:** belief in the spiritual nature of man; a set of spiritual beliefs and practices concerning the cause, nature and purpose of the universe that help a person understand and overcome the problems of existence. Example: Though the exhibit showed *religions* of many different kinds, there was a common thread in all of them.

**responsibility:** being willing to take charge of something, to make something happen; to recognize being the cause of something and continue to take care of it. Example: He took *responsibility* for educating others on human rights.

**rights:** claims (things you are legally allowed to have) or freedoms to be, do or have something. Example: His *rights* are protected by law.

**rumor:** a report or a statement said as if it were true, yet it may not be. Example: It was mere *rumor* that the woman had at one time been an acrobat in the circus.

**safe:** not being dangerous or harmful and not likely to cause loss; that does not make one worry about harm or danger. Example: In the mountain castle, we were *safe* from the storm.

**security:** feeling safe or sure; not worrying about danger, survival or what will happen. Example: We all want the *security* that when we are older, we will be able to take care of ourselves.

**seek:** to try to find or achieve something. Example: George *seeks* a school where there are lots of books and a library, because there are very few books at his school.

**shelter:** being protected and made safe from weather, dangerous animals and other safety concerns; being able to have a covering which gives a safe place to sleep and eat and if necessary, to work. Example: The campers needed to have *shelter* from the mosquitos and wind.



**slavery:** a system involving force to make people work, usually for very little or no pay; using threats, lies or tricks to make people provide some kind of service that they are unwilling to do. Example: *Slavery* happens in many countries.

**social:** having to do with human beings living together in a group or groups; the way people interact and cooperate in groups. Example: *Social* studies are about people and the way they live together.

**social security:** a system where governments provide financial help or services. This ensures that everyone who has contributed something to the society receives help when needed for food, medical care, education, etc., especially if they are no longer working due to disability (having a condition that makes one not as able to do something, such as illness, a broken bone, etc.) or age. Example: *Social security* can make us feel confident that there will be help in our old age, if need be.

**struggling:** trying very hard to survive or overcome difficulties. Example: She was *struggling* to feed her family.

**success:** a good result; a good ending after working for something; having a sense of victory or accomplishment. Example: He had great *success* trying to swim across the pool.

**thought:** ideas, plans, opinions and creative imagining. Example: Leaders of the country respected the *thoughts* of their people.

**torture:** purposely causing extreme pain to someone, usually for punishment, persuasion or discrimination. Example: That movie had a horrible scene with *torture* that made me close my eyes.

**trade union:** a group of workers who join together to make situations better in companies where they work. For example, a trade union might talk to the heads of the company to obtain better wages. As a united group, they have more power to improve the situations in their company. *Trade* means a kind of business or work one does. *Union* means together as one. Example: A teachers' *trade union* can make sure all teachers are given a desk to work at.

**trafficking:** exchanging or buying and selling of things illegally. Example: Drug *trafficking* is done over international borders.

**trial:** the examination of evidence and law to decide a case brought to court. Example: The *trial* is about to begin.

**try:** the verb form of *trial*, meaning to carry out the trial of someone in a court of law.

Example: The government will need to *try* the man before it is officially decided he is a spy.

**UDHR:** Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

**united:** joined together; working as a team to accomplish a purpose; having agreement and working together because of it. Example: As a *united* group, the students were able to accomplish more than one person alone.

**United Nations:** an organization composed of many countries who have agreed to work toward peace and human rights for all people. Example: With help from the *United Nations*, many countries have prevented war.

**universal:** of, for or shared by all. Example: The need for food is *universal*.

**violation:** the breaking of a law, rule, agreement, promise, etc.; a situation that goes against a promise, agreement or a natural right. Example: When someone is tortured, it is a *violation* of human rights.

**wage:** money paid for one's work. Example: He made a good *wage* by taking care of people's pets for them.

**YHRI:** Youth for Human Rights International.