

## UNIT 6

# GLOSSARY

**AAVE (African American Vernacular English):**

used to describe a North American dialect of English used by some Black people. It shares a large portion of its grammar and phonology with rural dialects of the Southern United States

**Abilities:** possession of the means or skills to do something; talents, skills, or proficiencies in a particular area (“People with different abilities” is often used to describe people with disabilities, or neurodiverse people.)

**Abolitionist:** the act of getting rid of something; a person taking action to eliminate slavery

**Academic:** relating to education and scholarship

**Advocate:** to publicly support or recommend a particular cause or policy

**Animated Cartoons:** a movie that is made from a series of drawings, computer graphics, or photographs of inanimate objects (such as puppets) and that gives the appearance of motion by small changes in each frame

**Analyze:** examine methodically and in detail the constitution or structure of something, especially information, typically for purposes of explanation and interpretation

**Annotate:** to add notes to a text or diagram, providing explanation or comment

**Antebellum:** a period between 1812 and 1861 characterized by the rise in abolitionist movements but also a polarization between abolitionists and those who supported and benefitted from slavery; defined by violence against enslaved Black people and extreme economic growth due to cotton production and sales

**Argue:** give reasons or cite evidence in support of an idea, action, or theory, typically with the aim of persuading others to share one's view

**Argument:** an exchange of diverging or opposite views, typically a heated or angry one; a reason or set of reasons given with the aim of persuading others that an action or idea is right or wrong

**Artifact:** an object made by a human being, typically an item of cultural or historical interest

**Assimilate:** take in information, ideas, or culture and understand fully; cause (something) to resemble or liken

**Background:** the circumstances or situation prevailing at a particular time or underlying a particular event; a person's education, experience, social circumstances, culture and so on; the things that have made you the person you are

**Campaign:** an organized course of action to achieve a goal

**Challenge:** a call to take part in a contest or competition, especially a duel; an objection or query as to the truth of something, often with an implicit demand for proof; dispute the truth or validity of; invite someone to engage in a contest

**Collaborate:** work jointly on an activity, especially to produce or create something

**Collaborative Discussion:** sustained discussions between students in which ideas are presented, defended, elaborated upon, and responded to

**Collective Responsibility:** a situation where individual members of a group are held responsible for the group's actions as a whole

**Commander-in-Chief:** a head of state or officer in supreme command of a country's armed forces

**Community:** a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common; a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals

**Conduct:** the manner in which a person behaves, especially on a particular occasion or in a particular context; the action or manner of managing an activity or organization

**Confirmed:** firmly established in a particular habit, belief, or way of life and unlikely to change; (confirmed by the Senate means that after research and testimony the members of the Senate take a vote on whether someone can become a Supreme Court justice)

**Create:** bring something into existence; cause something to happen because of one's actions

**Delineate:** describe or portray something precisely; indicate the exact position of

**Demonize:** portray as wicked or threatening

**Determine:** cause something to occur in a particular way; be the decisive factor in; ascertain or establish exactly, typically because of research or calculation

**Digital:** involving or relating to the use of computer technology

**Discuss:** talk about something with another person or group of people; talk or write about a topic in detail, considering different ideas and opinions

**Engage:** occupy, attract, or involve someone's interest or attention; participate or become involved in

**Evaluate:** form an idea of the amount, number, or value of; assess

**Event:** a thing that happens, especially one of importance

**Evidence:** the available body of facts or information indicating whether a belief or proposition is true or valid

**Examine:** inspect someone or something in detail to determine their nature or condition; investigate thoroughly

**Executive Branch:** the body in charge of making sure the laws of the U.S. are obeyed; the president is the head of this branch

**Explanatory:** explaining something

**Explore:** inquire into or discuss a subject or issue in detail

**The Exonerated 5:** five Black and Latino men who were teenagers when they were wrongfully convicted and served time for the 1989 brutal rape of a white female jogger in Central Park

**Film:** a motion picture; a movie

**Food Insecurity:** the condition of not having access to sufficient food, or food of an adequate quality, to meet one's basic needs

**Gender Identity:** our internal experience and naming of our gender; it can correspond to or differ from the sex we were assigned at birth

**Grassroots:** the most basic level of an activity or organization; a movement that uses the people in the community to bring awareness to an issue

**Health Equity:** the state in which everyone has a fair and just opportunity to attain their highest level of health

**Hashtag:** a word or a phrase that is preceded by the pound or number sign, which helps identify your content digitally on a specific topic

**Hunger:** a feeling of discomfort or weakness caused by lack of food, coupled with the desire to eat; have a strong desire or craving for

**Identify:** establish or indicate who or what someone or something is; associate someone closely with; regard someone as having strong links with

**Impact:** have a strong effect on someone or something

**Implication:** the conclusion that can be drawn from something although it is not explicitly stated; the action or state of being involved in something

**Inhumane:** without compassion for misery or suffering; cruel

**Informative:** providing useful or interesting information

**Intersectional/Intersectionality:** refers to the ways in which a person's various identities (such as race, class, and gender) can combine to create different types of discrimination and privilege

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Additional talking points for explaining this term to young students: We all have different parts of our identities that make us who we are. Our gender, our race, our religion, how we learn, etc. Sometimes we are treated a certain way due to part of our identity. When we hold more than one identity that is not treated well in society, that can feel really hard. This also connects us to others in ways where we can see how our problems in the world are not so different.

**Intimidate:** frighten or overawe someone, especially to make them do what one wants

**Jigsaw (in a classroom context):** a strategy that asks a group of students to become "experts" on a specific text or body of knowledge and then share that material with another group of students

**Judicial Branch:** the court system of the United States; reviews laws

**Legislative Branch:** the branch of government made up of the House and the Senate, known collectively as Congress (Among other powers, the legislative branch makes all laws, declares war, regulates interstate and foreign commerce, and controls taxing and spending policies.)

**Local Government:** the administration of a particular town, county, or district, with representatives elected by those who live there

**Offensive:** causing someone to feel deeply hurt, upset, or angry


**Mammy:** a stereotype of an overweight, self-sacrificing, extremely obedient Black woman that became a well-known caricature

**Media:** the main means of mass communication (broadcasting, publishing, and the internet) regarded collectively

**Media Platforms:** a service, site, or method that delivers media to an audience (Its functions are to deliver information, but also sometimes to allow for feedback, discussion, or sharing. Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube, your local newspaper, network TV etc., are media platform outlets.)

**Minorities:** An ethnic, religious, or linguistic minority is any group of persons that constitutes less than half of the population in the entire territory of a state, whose members share common characteristics of culture, religion, language, or a combination of any of these

**Minstrel Show:** An American form of racist entertainment that was popular from the mid-1800s to the early 1900s, in which mostly white actors put on blackface and mocked Black people through songs, dances, and comedy



**“Mirrors and Windows”:** the study of texts that reflect their own identities, experiences, and motivations (mirrors), and also provide insight into the identities, experiences, and motivations of others (windows); can move students toward more nuanced perceptions of the world around them

**Missouri Compromise:** enacted in 1820 to maintain the balance of power in Congress, the Missouri Compromise admitted Missouri as a slave state and Maine as a free state in order to address growing sectional tensions over the issue of slavery

**Mobilize:** organize and encourage people to act in a concerted way in order to bring about a particular political objective

**Momentum:** the impetus and driving force gained by the development of a process or course of events

**Movement:** an organized effort to achieve a goal or set of goals; a group of people with a shared purpose who create change together

**Noose:** a loop with a running knot, tightening as the rope or wire is pulled and typically used to hang people or trap animals

**Opinion:** a view or judgment formed about something, not necessarily based on fact or knowledge; the beliefs or views of a large number or majority of people about a particular thing

**Organizer:** a person who organizes; a person whose job or role it is to coordinate cooperative efforts and campaigning carried out by local residents to promote the interests of their community

**Pickaninny:** a racist caricature of Black children; a racial slur

**Policy:** a course or principle of action adopted or proposed by a government, party, business, or individual

**Popular:** liked, admired, or enjoyed by many people or by a particular person or group; intended for or suited to the taste, understanding, or means of the general public rather than specialists or intellectuals; a belief or attitude held by the majority of the general public; a political activity carried on by the people as a whole rather than restricted to politicians or political parties


**Pound Sign:** the sign #, representing a pound as a unit of weight or mass, or as represented on a phone keypad or computer keyboard

**Privilege:** a special right, advantage, or immunity granted or available only to a particular person or group

**Produce:** cause a particular result or situation to happen or come into existence

**Quote:** repeat or copy a group of words from a text or speech, typically with an indication that one is not the original author or speaker; a quotation from a text or speech

**Representation:** the action of speaking or acting on behalf of someone or the state of being so represented; the depiction of someone or something in a picture or other work of art



**Romanticize:** deal with or describe in an idealized or unrealistic fashion; make something seem better or more appealing than it really is

**Ruling:** an authoritative decision or pronouncement, especially one made by a judge; currently exercising authority or influence

**Sarcasm:** the use of irony to mock or convey contempt

**Social Media:** websites and applications that enable users to create and share content or to participate in social networking

**Society:** the aggregate of people living together in a more-or-less ordered community

**Stereotype:** a generalization about a person or group without regard for individual differences; the false idea that all members of a group are the same and think and behave in the same way

**Stop and Frisk Policy:** the policing practice of stopping a person briefly in order to search them for weapons or prohibited items

**Summarize:** give a brief statement of the main points of something

**Supreme Court:** the highest judicial court in a country or state; the highest federal court in the U.S., consisting of nine justices and taking judicial precedence over all other courts in the nation

**Technology:** the application of scientific knowledge for practical purposes, especially in industry; machinery and equipment developed from the application of scientific knowledge

**Territory:** an area of land under the jurisdiction of a ruler or state; especially in the U.S., Canada, or Australia, an organized division of a country that is not yet admitted to the full rights of a state

**Whiteness:** refers to light-skinned people of European descent; refers to the construction of the white race, white culture, and the system of privileges and advantages afforded to white people in the U.S. and across the globe through government policies, media portrayal, decision-making power within our corporations, schools, judicial systems, etc.