



Support Vocabulary - Lessons 3 and 4

act: a bill or legislation passed by Congress and enacted into law

amendment: an official change made to a legal document like a constitution, law, or contract

eminent domain: power of royalty or a government to take private property for public use

free enterprise: economic system in which private business operates for profit mostly free of state control

initiative: a type of ballot measure that allows citizens to propose a statute or constitutional amendment

judicial review: power of courts to review and overrule actions of the executive and legislative branches

just compensation: payment for loss of value or property after an eminent domain seizure or “taking”

lawsuit: a process by which a dispute between people or legal entities is decided in court

poll tax: a fee required as a qualification for voting

private sphere: a part of society in which a person enjoys some authority, free from government interference

privileges and immunities: Constitution: prevents a state from treating citizens of other states in a discriminatory manner; 14th Amendment: guarantees that a citizen of one state can enjoy equality in another state with regard to civil liberties and rights

public sphere: a part of society in which people freely come together to identify and address societal problems

regulatory taking: a legal challenge to disobey a law that protects public health and welfare, workers, or the environment

standing: ability of a person to bring a lawsuit before a court to obtain judicial remedy or relief

referendum: a type of ballot measure that allows citizens to repeal a bill passed by a legislature

standing: ability of a person to bring a lawsuit before a court to obtain judicial remedy or relief

substantive due process: allows courts to protect certain fundamental rights from government interference, even if procedural protections are present or the rights are not specifically mentioned elsewhere in the US Constitution

Super PACs: an independent-expenditure Political Action Committee that can raise and spend unlimited amounts of money to elect or defeat candidates

toxic trespass: when chemicals that cause harm enter our bodies without our consent from the air we breathe, water we drink, or food we eat



Core Vocabulary - Lessons 3 and 4

Lesson 3

artificial person: an entity or thing created by law with a distinct identity, existence, duties, and rights

charter rights: special privileges granted under a license to do business by an authority; the privileges may be transferred, sold, or removed by the authority

corporate personhood: a body of judge-made law that recognizes fundamental rights for corporations

corporation: a group of people with a license to do business as type of artificial entity; an artificial person

internal threat: a weakness within a system capable of destroying the whole

natural person: an individual human being

Lesson 4

ballot measure: proposed legislation to be voted upon by eligible voters; see initiative and referendum

campaign finance regulations: rules on giving and spending money during election activities, and on reporting donor names

commercial speech: advertises a product or service for sale

negative speech: right NOT to speak, like to NOT label all food ingredients such as GMO products

penumbra: a group of rights derived, by implication, from other rights explicitly protected in Bill of Rights

political speech: expressions by government or candidates for office and discussion of social issues