

Vocabulary-Lesson 4

Core Vocabulary

Of speech

freedom of speech: a protected 1st Amendment right to express opinions without restraint

commercial speech: judge-made laws that establish rights for artificial persons to spend money on ballot measures as protected speech under the 1st Amendment

negative speech: judge-made laws that establish rights NOT to speak truthfully in political campaigns and marketing ads as protected speech under the 1st Amendment

political speech: judge-made laws that establish rights to give and spend money on political campaigns as protected speech under the 1st Amendment

Of government

ballot measure: tool used by citizens to place a proposed rule change on a ballot for a popular vote; a way for citizens to provide a check and balance on government; see citizen initiative and referendum

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

citizen initiative: a type of ballot measure that allows citizens to propose and vote on a new law or constitutional amendment

citizen referendum: a type of ballot measure that allows citizens to vote on and veto a bill passed by the legislature

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

just compensation: a constitutional right to fair payment for loss of value or property after an eminent domain seizure or “taking”

regulatory taking: a judge-made right of corporations to just compensation for a loss or decrease in value of private property from obeying government regulations

Support Vocabulary

GMO: Genetically Modified Organism; organisms created in a lab by genetic modification or engineering

poll tax: a fee required by some states as a qualification for voting

shareholder: owner or holder of one or more shares in a corporation; a stockholder

Super PAC: a special independent organization that cannot donate to political parties or candidates but that can raise or spend unlimited amounts of money to elect or defeat political candidates



Vocabulary-Lesson 4

Film Vocabulary

asthma: harm to lungs that causes trouble breathing

carcinogenic: a substance that is able or likely to cause cancer

DDT: a manmade, highly toxic, oil-based chemical used as a pesticide and that persists in the environment and becomes concentrated in animals at the head of the food chain including humans; it was banned in the United States in 1972 and worldwide under the Stockholm Convention in 2001 after it was discovered to be dangerous to wildlife and the environment

environmental racism: a type of discrimination where communities of people of color or low-income are forced by political factors to live near or in polluted or degraded environments

genetics: the study of genes and inherited characteristics

hormones: chemical messengers produced in the body that travel throughout the body and coordinate complex processes like early development of the brain and reproductive system before birth and also growth, metabolism, fertility, immune system function, and behavior

lead: a naturally-occurring heavy metal that can cause health problems to plants, animals, and people when concentrated as a result of industrial activities

nebulizer: device that produces fine spray of liquid to inhale medicine

neurological: relating to nerves and nervous system

non-communicable disease: illness that does not spread from one person to another

particulate matter pollution: a complex mixture of extremely small particles that, once inhaled, can harm the lungs and heart and cause serious health problems

PCBs: manmade, highly toxic, industrial chemicals that persist in the environment and that can pose serious health risks to unborn babies, babies, and children

pesticide: chemicals that are used to destroy certain insects or other organisms harmful to domestic plants and animals, but that also can harm people's health

