

Exclusion Special Exhibition – Student Vocabulary List

Civil Liberties: individual rights protected by law from unjust governmental or other interference¹

Civil Rights: the rights of citizens to political and social freedom and equality

Discrimination: Discrimination is unfair treatment of one particular person or group of people. Usually the different treatment is because of the person’s sex, religion, nationality, ethnicity (culture), race, or other personal traits.

Euphemism: a mild or indirect word or expression substituted for one considered to be too harsh or blunt when referring to something unpleasant or embarrassing

Incarceration: the state of being confined in prison; imprisonment

Inference: a conclusion reached on the basis of evidence and reasoning

Primary Source: A first-hand, original account, record, or evidence about a person, place, object, or an event. Oral histories, objects, photographs, and documents such as newspapers, ledgers, census records, diaries, journals, and inventories, are primary sources.

Racism: prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism directed against someone of a different race based on the belief that one's own race is superior

¹ Civil liberties are basic freedoms while civil rights are the basic right to be free from discrimination based on such characteristics as race, disability, color, gender, national origin, and others. Civil liberties include the basic freedoms while civil rights include how an individual is treated regarding certain rights - <https://swartz-legal.com/employment-law-resources/whats-the-difference-between-civil-rights-civil-liberties/>

Vocabulary Related to WWII Incarceration of Japanese Americans

Euphemism	Accurate Term	Why?
Evacuation	Exclusion or Forced Removal	This describes the fact that Japanese Americans did not have a choice and were ordered to leave their homes. They were not evacuating because they were not in danger of anything. In contrast, they were seen as the threat and thus had to be forcibly removed.
Relocation	Incarceration in Prison Camps	This describes the fact that Japanese Americans did not have a choice and were ordered to leave their homes. They were not simply moving to a new home.
Assembly Center	Temporary Detention Facility	Japanese Americans were prisoners who were temporarily held in these facilities until the incarceration camps were created and ready for them to be shipped. “Assembly Center” does not capture the government’s intent, and namely, the “degrading lack of amenities and very crude living spaces in these facilities.”
Alien	Immigrant or Person From Another Country	“Alien” was a derogatory word to call immigrants due to xenophobic and anti-immigrant sentiments
Non-Alien	U.S. Citizens of Japanese Ancestry	Using “non-alien” was a way for the government to categorize Japanese Americans as others who did not deserve the same rights as other American citizens.

National JACL Power of Words II Committee. “Dictionary Definitions and Euphemistic Terms. *Power of Words Handbook: A Guide to Language about Japanese Americans in World War II*. Japanese American Citizens League, April 27, 2013, p.7, <https://jacl.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Power-of-Words-Rev.-Term.-Handbook.pdf>