



2004 Shaping the World: Conversation on Democracy The Presidential Debate of 1804

Vocabulary

Accusation – a charge of wrongdoing

Aggrandize – to make greater in power, influence, stature, or reputation

Ameliorate – to make better or more tolerable

Amendment – a change or addition made in the Constitution

Anarchy – absence of government

Approbation – to give formal or official sanction to; to approve; to accept as satisfactory

Articles of Confederation – the first plan of government for the American nation, in effect from 1781 to 1789

Beggary – mean the state of one with insufficient resources

Bill of Rights – the first ten amendments to the Constitution, which set forth the basic rights or freedoms, guaranteed to all

Cadre – a nucleus or core group especially of trained personnel able to assume control and to train others

Candidates – the men/women who run for election to the offices in our government

Capital – wealth that is used to produce more wealth

Citizen – a member of our nation who takes full part in its affairs

Citizenship – the duties, rights, and privileges of a citizen in a democratic nation

Congress – the lawmaking body of the federal government

Constitution – a written plan of a government describing how a government is organized, listing its purpose, some of the basic laws, and the rights of the people

Constitution of the United States – the plan our nation's government set up in 1789 to be the supreme law of our land

Contention – a point advanced or maintained in a debate or argument

Compromise – a settlement of an argument or dispute reached by each side giving up some of its claims or demands

Credentials – testimonials showing that a person is entitled to credit or has a right to exercise official power

Delegates – representatives who attend a political party convention

Democracy -- a government in which the people rule themselves

Diatribes – popular discourse on morality; being critical of another

Economy – the way in which the resources of a country or business are managed; careful and thrifty use of money and goods

Elastic clause – Article I, Section 18, or the “necessary and proper” clause, that allows Congress to stretch the powers listed in the Constitution to cover many other subjects

Electoral College – the men and women who cast each state’s official votes for the President and Vice President

Embargo – an order by a government that forbids ships to engage in trade or commerce with another country

Epitome – a summary; a brief presentation or statement

Extinct – no longer active; extinguished

Extortion – a demand to obtain money or other goods from a person by force, intimidation, or undue or illegal power

Factions – Political parties or groups

Flog a Poor Horse – unkindness/ill treatment to someone down on their luck

House of Representatives – (the House) the lower house of Congress in which states are represented according to their population

Impeachment – the procedure of drawing up charges against a government official

Impotence – not capable of being governed, guided, or restrained

Judication – judgement

Manifest Destiny – a future event accepted as inevitable

Mercenaries – professional soldiers who are hired to serve in a foreign army

Monarchy – government by a ruler, such as a king, or queen

National Debt – the total amount of money owed by the federal government

Patriotism – the love for and loyalty to one’s country

Pittance – a small portion or amount

Platform – a written statement which outlines a political party's ideas and describes the program it proposes for our nation

Plenipotentiary – representative accredited as an ambassador/minister to a civil government in order to maintain official diplomatic relations and invested with full power to transact business

Politician – a person involved in any aspect of politics

Political Cartoon – a statement of opinion. The cartoonist expresses a person's opinion or the newspaper's opinion on a certain issue by drawing instead of writing. Political cartoons use caricatures, symbols and humor to portray certain ideas, groups or countries in such a way as to get an emotional response from readers

Political Party – an organization made up of a large group of citizens who have similar ideas on public issues and who work to put their ideas into effect through government action

Preamble – the beginning of the Constitution which describes the purposes of our American government

Prigarchy – obnoxious, offending, and expensive observations of rituals of monarchs

Propaganda – ideas used to try to make us do something or to influence our opinions

Productivity – the quality or state of making something in abundance; yielding results, benefits, or profits

Ratify – to make legal by officially approving

Representatives – members of the House of Representatives

Resolution – to deal with successfully; clear up; to find an answer to

Retrocede – to go back

Senate – the upper house of Congress in which each state has equal representation

Senators – members of the United States Senate

Strike While the Iron is Hot – take action immediately

Tax – a payment of money which citizens are required to make to help pay the costs of their government

Unconstitutional – in violation of the constitution of a state or country

Vigilance – to keep watch; alertly watchful