

English 10A

American Literature

Vocabulary 2 - "An individual is as superb as a nation when he has qualities which make a superb nation."

- Walt Whitman

Please define the following words:

1. archetype- a very typical example of a certain person or thing : *the book is a perfect archetype of the genre.*
2. ardent - enthusiastic or passionate : *an ardent baseball fan*
3. arduous - involving or requiring strenuous effort; difficult and tiring : *an arduous journey.*
4. aristocratic - of or relating to the aristocracy : *an aristocratic family.* (best power)
5. artifice - clever or cunning devices or expedients, esp. as used to trick or deceive others : *artifice and outright fakery*
6. ascendancy - occupation of a position of dominant power or influence : *the ascendancy of good over evil | they have a moral ascendancy over the rich.*
7. ascetic - characterized by or suggesting the practice of severe self-discipline and abstention from all forms of indulgence, typically for religious reasons : *an ascetic life of prayer, fasting, and manual labor* (monk + to exercise)
8. assiduous - showing great care and perseverance : *she was assiduous in pointing out every feature* (be engaged in doing)
9. assimilate - take in (information, ideas, or culture) and understand fully : *Marie tried to assimilate the week's events.* (absorbed/ to like)
10. assuage - make (an unpleasant feeling) less intense : *the letter assuaged the fears of most members.* (to sweet)
11. astute - having or showing an ability to accurately assess situations or people and turn this to one's advantage : *an astute businessman.* (craft)
12. attrition - the action or process of gradually reducing the strength or effectiveness of someone or something through sustained attack or pressure : *the council is trying to wear down the opposition by attrition* (to rub)
13. audacity - the willingness to take bold risks : *her audacity came in handy during our most recent emergency*

14. augment - make (something) greater by adding to it; increase : *he augmented his summer income by painting houses.*
(to increase)
15. auspicious - conducive to success; favorable : *it was not the most auspicious moment to hold an election.*
16. austere - severe or strict in manner, attitude, or appearance : *an austere man, with a rigidly puritanical outlook | an austere expression.* (severe)
17. autocratic- of or relating to a ruler who has absolute power : *the constitutional reforms threatened his autocratic power.* (self power)
18. autonomous - (of a country or region) having self-government, at least to a significant degree: *the federation included sixteen autonomous republics.* (having its own laws)
19. avarice - extreme greed for wealth or material gain. (greedy)
20. avow - assert or confess openly : [with clause] *he avowed that he had voted Republican in every election* | [trans.] *he avowed his change of faith* | [as adj.] (avowed) *an avowed Marxist.*
(acknowledge / summon in defense)