ESSENTIAL, MUST-HAVE, MUST-KNOW

Vocabulary for AHSGE Reading!

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| **WORD** | **DEFINITION** | **SYNONYMS** |
| absurd | ridiculously unreasonable or illogical | senseless, ridiculous, foolish, silly, stupid |
| agitated | terribly irritated, nervous or upset | upset, excited, worked up, jumpy |
| ambivalent | having opposing feelings or opinions at the same time about something | confused, conflicted, "having mixed emotions" |
| apathetic | having or showing little or no feeling or emotion | uncaring, unconcerned, cold |
| apprehensive | viewing the future with fear or alarm | uneasy, anxious, worried |
| condescending | characterized by a sense of superiority | "talking down to someone" |
| cynical | tending to believe the worst about people and about the world | scornful, distrustful, skeptical |
| detached | a sense of being uninterested in the subject or unbiased | neutral, fair, distant |
| disinterested | having no opinion on a subject one way or another | impartial, neutral |
| earnest | serious about or intensely focused on something | intent, eager, determined |
| empathetic | being sharply aware of and able to share someone else's feelings | supportive, understanding, sympathetic, compassionate |
| enthusiastic | extremely excited or intensely eager about something | zealous, excited, "all-out," "pumped up" |
| exuberant | extremely excited or intensely eager about something | zealous, excited, "all-out," "pumped up" |
| facetious | joking, not serious, (sometimes inappropriately so) | wisecracking, funny, sarcastic |
| fervent | intense in feeling | passionate, eager, enthusiastic |
| flippant | lighthearted, but in a disrespectful way | sassy, saucy, rude, disrespectful |
| forthright | direct and without hesitation | blunt, outspoken, "right to the point" |
| frivolous | having little or no importance | trivial, pointless, unimportant |
| grave | frighteningly serious | gloomy, critical, urgent, solemn |
| haughty | unpleasantly proud, arrogant | "stuck up," full of herself" |
| impartial | having no opinion on a subject one way or another | unbiased, disinterested, fair |
| incredulous | unwilling or unable to accept something as truth | disbelieving, doubtful |
| indifferent | having no opinion on a subject one way or another | impartial, neutral, "don't care one way or the other" |
| insolent | speaking or behaving in a disrespectful manner | rude, sassy, cheeky, flippant |
| irreverent | lacking proper respect or seriousness | disrespectful, shameless, mocking of religion |
| melancholy | depressed in mind or spirit | downhearted, sad, gloomy, unhappy |
| nostalgic | longing to return to a past time or place that will never return | "looking back on life," "wishing for the past" |
| objective | based only on facts and evidence, free from opinion | factual, unbiased, impartial |
| ominous | foretelling of evil, a feeling of something bad about to happen | threatening, unsettling |
| optimistic | tending to always expect the best in any situation | cheerful, hopeful, positive |
| pessimistic | tending to always expect the worst in any situation | negative, gloomy |
| poignant | painfully effective to feelings and emotions | touching "gut-wrenching," |
| pompous | full of self-importance | haughty, arrogant, "stuck up" |
| reflective | thinking about something that has already happened | thoughtful, "thinking it over" |
| resigned | ready to give up without a fight | defeated, accepting failure before it even happens |
| reverent | displaying great respect as for something religious | worshipful, respectful, done with honor |
| sarcastic | capable of humor that wounds its target | mocking, teasing, disrespectfully joking |
| skeptical | unwilling or unable to accept something as truth | disbelieving, doubtful |
| solemn | serious in a ceremonial way | formal, dignified |
| subjective | open to opinion, feeling and emotion; not based on fact alone | opinion, biased, |
| sympathetic | characterized by great compassion for the feelings of another | empathetic, compassionate, caring |
| unbiased | based only on facts and evidence, free from opinion | fair, neutral, objective |