UNIT 1

Note that not all of the 20 unit words are used in this passage. Decadence, innuendo, petulant, and simulate are not included in the passage.

Read the following selection, taking note of the boldface words and their contexts. These words are among those you will be studying in Unit 1. As you complete the exercises in this unit, it may help to refer to the way the words are used below.

CCSS Vocabulary: 4; Reading (Informational Text): 4, 6. (See pp. T14–15.)

The Camera in Wartime

(Textbook Entry)

When crowds gathered at photographer Mathew Brady’s New York City studio in late 1862 to gaze at the first images of the Civil War (1861–1865), they became the first witnesses to distant battles. The exhibition did nothing to assuage the public’s fears about the conflict. Instead, the gruesome, even lurid, views of battlefield corpses elicited terror and sadness. Photography had brought home the terrible reality of war.

Early Photography

Invented in 1839, the camera played only a minor role in the Mexican-American War (1846–1848) and the Crimean War (1853–1856). Early photographs, called daguerreotypes, were difficult to make; a single exposure took up to 30 minutes and yielded only one low-quality image.

During the hiatus between those wars and the American Civil War, photography transcended its early limitations. With the new wet plate process, exposures could be made in just a few seconds, and a photographer could mass-produce prints from a single negative. That advance made photography practical—and profitable—and when the Civil War began, a coalition of photographers fanned out to cover the action.

Civil War Photography

Most Civil War photographers produced images of individual soldiers. Almost every soldier wanted photos of himself in uniform to send to family and friends. Today, their faces stare out at the viewer from across the centuries: the wide-eyed teen, not yet tested under fire; the jaded sergeant, worn-out from the horrors he has witnessed; the unctuous junior officer, trying hard to appear sincere.
Photography quickly gained the approbation of military leaders. Art imitates life, after all, so when officials needed photos of bridges, terrain, and armaments to plan their attacks, a skillful photographer became a valuable asset. Photos of surgical procedures were distributed as well, showing doctors new techniques that saved lives in provincial and military hospitals.

Few Civil War photographs show a battle in progress; action shots were not yet generally possible. Once the fighting was over, however, it was the photographer's prerogative to rush in and record the aftermath. Such graphic results tended to highlight the grim toll of the war, and many people eventually took umbrage at this emphasis. The courage of the soldiers was moving, but the unrelenting carnage was difficult to view.

Mathew Brady and Alexander Gardner

A few Civil War photographers should be singled out for their meritorious efforts. Mathew Brady (1823–1896) took thousands of photographs of wartime leaders and battle scenes, and his images continue to help historians better understand the Civil War era. Inspired to document the entire war, Brady conducted his photographic work at his own expense. When federal officials refused to buy his prints, Brady expostulated with them to no avail, and he died penniless.

Alexander Gardner (1821–1882) was Brady's assistant in Washington, D.C. When the Civil War began, Gardner successfully interceded with President Lincoln, getting him to allow photographers to accompany the army. Gardner himself traveled with Union forces to photograph the battles at Antietam, Gettysburg, and Petersburg. Never hackneyed or dull, Gardner's images offered fresh insights into the reality of modern warfare.

Photography in Later Years

In contrast to Civil War photography, the photographic records of the Spanish-American War (1898) and World War I (1914–1918) are relatively limited. Beginning with World War II (1939–1945), however, combat photographers consistently traveled with the troops, risking their lives to capture wartime events. In addition to clarifying the details of every battle, war photographs have depicted the harsh realities endured by ordinary soldiers and helped build support for the war effort on the home front.
Choosing the Right Word

Select the **boldface** word that better completes each sentence. You might refer to the selection on pages 12–13 to see how most of these words are used in context.

1. I enjoy science-fiction movies, as they provide a short but exciting (**umbrage**, **hiatus**) from the problems of everyday life.

2. The magnificence of the scene far (**simulated**, **transcended**) my ability to describe it in words.

3. My teacher can (**simulate**, **elicit**) some degree of interest and attention from even the most withdrawn children.

4. The defense attorney quickly realized that the witness's statement was filled with (**innuendo**, **coalition**), not facts.

5. His skillful use of academic jargon and fashionable catchphrases could not conceal the essentially (**hackneyed**, **meritorious**) quality of his ideas.

6. At the Senior Prom, my sister and most of her friends were glad that men are no longer expected to take the (**prerogative**, **hiatus**) in choosing dance partners.

7. Perhaps it will (**exostulate**, **assuage**) your fright if I remind you that everyone must try something for the first time at some point in his or her life. **[Innuendo]**

8. How can you accuse me of employing (**umbrage**,** innuendo**) when I am saying in the plainest possible language that I think you're a crook?

9. The newspaper account of the tragedy was quite sensational and filled with (**lurid**, **provincial**) details about the accident.

10. Who would have thought he would take (**prerogative**, **umbrage**) at an e-mail from a friend who wanted only to help?

11. After watching four TV football games on New Year's Day, I was (**jaded**, **hackneyed**) with the pigskin sport for weeks to come.

12. We cannot know today what sort of accent Abraham Lincoln had, but it may well be that there was a decidedly (**meritorious**, **provincial**) twang to his speech.

13. Popularity polls seem to be based on the mistaken idea that the basic task of a political leader is to win immediate (**approbation**, **coalition**) from the people.

14. The most (**meritorious**, **lurid**) form of charity, according to the ancient Hebrew sages, is to help poor people become self-supporting.

15. They try to "prove" the (**umbrage**, **decadence**) of modern youth by emphasizing everything that is bad and ignoring whatever is good.

CCSS Vocabulary: 4.d. (See pp. T14–15.)
16. I truly dislike the kind of sensational popular biography that focuses solely on the more (lurid, hackneyed) or scandalous aspects of a superstar's career.

17. On the air the star seemed calm, but he privately sent (petulant, jaded) notes to those who gave him bad reviews.

18. When the (umbrage, hiatus) in the conversation became embarrassingly long, I decided that the time had come to serve the sandwiches.

19. I prefer reading about modest and sympathetic characters rather than those who are contemptuous and (lurid, faded).

20. The American two-party system almost always makes it unnecessary to form a (hiatus, coalition) of minority parties to carry on the government.

21. I see no point in (exostulating, simulating) with a person who habitually refuses to listen to reason.

22. Apparently mistaking us for the millionaire's children, the hotel manager overwhelmed us with his (petulant, unctuous) attentions.

23. Because she had just received a large bonus, Joan felt it was her (decadence, prerogative) to purchase a luxury convertible car.

24. To impress her newly made friends, she (simulated, assuaged) an interest in modern art, of which she knew nothing.

25. If you try to (elicit, intercede) in a friends' quarrel, you will only make things worse.

**Synonyms**

Choose the word from this unit that is the same or most nearly the same in meaning as the **boldface** word or expression in the phrase. Write that word on the line. Use a dictionary if necessary.

1. a lifestyle of intemperance
2. an implication not supported by fact
3. depleted by too much networking
4. impolite and snappish attitude
5. a benefit of her rank
6. exploding in annoyance
7. unceasing and servile modesty
8. feign a reconciliation
9. alleviate his worst fears
10. seeking the boss's commendation
The synonyms and antonyms here do not appear on the Definitions page.

**Antonyms**

Choose the word from this unit that is most nearly opposite in meaning to the **boldface** word or expression in the phrase. Write that word on the line. Use a dictionary if necessary.

1. living a life of sacrifice and **self-denial**
2. **genuinely express** joy over a coworker's promotion
3. **such a sedate** and self-controlled child
4. a record of **discreditable** actions
5. a lawyer who offers **incontestable proof**

**Completing the Sentence**

From the words in this unit, choose the one that best completes each of the following sentences. Write the word in the space provided.

1. In an age when the United States has truly global responsibilities, we cannot afford to have leaders with __________ points of view.
2. I take no ________ at your personal remarks, but I feel you would have been better advised not to make them.
3. Forever humbling himself and flattering others, Dickens's Uriah Heep is famously ________
4. During the brief ________ in the music, someone's ringing cell phone split the air.
5. If you cannot meet the college's entrance requirements, it will be futile to have someone ________ on your behalf.
6. Weakened militarily, and with a large part of the population living on free "bread and circuses," the once mighty Roman Empire now entered a period of ________
7. The midnight fire in our apartment building cast a(n) ________ unearthly light on the faces of the firefighters struggling to put it out.
8. The manager expressed her unfavorable opinion of the job applicant by ________ rather than by direct statement.
9. The issue of good faith that your conduct raises far ________ the specific question of whether or not you are responsible for the problem.
10. If you take pride in expressing yourself with force and originality, you should not use so many ________ phrases.

© CCSS Vocabulary: 4.a. (See pp. T14–15.)
11. I certainly appreciate your praise, but I must say that I can see nothing so remarkably _______ in having done what any decent person would do.

12. His confidence grew as he received clear signs of the _______ of his superiors.

13. I feel that, as an old friend, I have the _______ of criticizing your actions without arousing resentment.

14. Varicose insects have a marvelous capacity to protect themselves by _______ the appearance of twigs and other objects in their environment.

15. Of course you have a right to ask the waiter for a glass of water, but is there any need to use the _______ tone of a spoiled child?

16. The only way to defeat the party in power is for all the reform groups to form a(n) _______ and back a single slate of candidates.

17. Since I don't like people who play favorites in the office, I have frequently _______ against such behavior with my superiors.

18. Although we tried to express our sympathy, we knew that mere words could do nothing to _______ her grief.

19. In the question-and-answer session, we tried to _______ from the candidates some definite indication of how they proposed to reduce the national debt.

20. Their tastes have been so _______ by luxurious living that they seem incapable of enjoying the simple pleasures of life.

Writing: Words in Action

1. Look back at “The Camera in Wartime” (pages 12-13). Imagine that you are Mathew Brady, trying to convince federal officials to purchase prints of the thousands of photographs that you have taken of the Civil War. Write a letter to government officials, persuading them of the historical merit of your work, and explain why your photographs should become part of a national archive. Use at least two details from the passage and three unit words.

2. Civil War photographers were able to record only the disturbing aftermath of war. Today, journalists can provide not only photographs but also live video of battles. What are the drawbacks to or benefits of having the stark reality of war brought into people's homes? Write an essay in which you support your opinion with your own observations, studies, personal experience, and the reading (pages 12-13). Write at least three paragraphs, and use three or more words from this unit.

Writing prompt #2 is modeled on that of standardized tests.
1. "You are a very remarkable man, Dick!" said my aunt, with an air of unqualified
   **approbation**; "and never pretend to be anything else, for I know better!"
   Someone who speaks with **approbation** is
   - proud
   - arrogant
   - humble
   - judgmental

2. Her quiet interest in everything that interested Dora; her manner of making
   acquaintance with Jip (who responded instantly); her pleasant way, when Dora was
   ashamed to come over to her usual seat by me; her modest grace and ease,
   **eliciting** a crowd of blushing little marks of confidence from Dora; seemed to make
   our circle quite complete.

   The act of **eliciting** involves
   - putting off
   - diminishing
   - calling forth

3. I had had a hard day's work, and was pretty well
   **jaded** when I came climbing out, at last, upon the
   level of Blackheath. It cost me some trouble to find
   out Salem House; but I found it.....

   After a hard day's work, a **jaded** person is
   - invigorated
   - disappointed
   - anxious
   - exhausted

4. Here and there, some early lamps were seen to
   twinkle in the distant city; and in the eastern quarter
   of the sky the **lurid** light still hovered. But, from the
   greater part of the broad valley interposed, a mist
   was rising like a sea, which, mingling with the
   darkness, made it seem as if the gathering waters
   would encompass them.

   A **lurid** light is
   - bright
   - pallid
   - scenic
   - vivid

5. ...[I] faced about for Greenwich, which I had
   understood was on the Dover Road: taking very little
   more out of the world, towards the retreat of my
   aunt, Miss Betsey, than I had brought into it, on the
   night when my arrival gave her so much **umbrage**.

   A person filled with **umbrage** is NOT
   - annoyed
   - offended
   - pleased
   - bitter

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Vocabulary in Context: Informational Text for Unit 1 is
available online at vocabularyworkshop.com.

The following excerpts are from David Copperfield by Charles
Dickens. Some of the words you have studied in this unit appear in
**boldface** type. Complete each statement below the excerpt by
circling the letter of the correct answer.