

Vocabulary Activity

State and Local Government

Content Vocabulary

1. **DIRECTIONS:** Use this graphic organizer to describe the different types of taxes in the United States. Use the terms **sales tax**, **income tax**, and **property tax** in your answer.

Sales tax	Income tax	Property tax

2. **DIRECTIONS:** Use this graphic organizer to describe the differences among the types of political units. Use the words **county**, **township**, **town**, and **village** in your answer.

Type of Political Unit	Description
county	
town	
township	
village	

Vocabulary Activity *(continued)*

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3. **DIRECTIONS:** Read the following sentences and explain what the terms **legislative referendum** and **popular referendum** mean based on the information in the passage. Use the chart to write your explanations.

In one state, the legislature decided to use a **legislative referendum** to raise taxes for pet projects. Voters voted the referendum down. In another state, the legislature went ahead and raised taxes, but voters held a **popular referendum** to repeal the taxes.

Term	Explanation
legislative referendum	
popular referendum	

DIRECTIONS: Read the following sentences. If the statement is true, write *T* in the blank. If the sentence is false, write *F*, and then explain in the space provided why the statement is false. Include the vocabulary word(s) in parentheses in your explanation.

- _____ 4. Money awarded to the federal government by the states is known as grant-in-aid. **(grant-in-aid)**
- _____ 5. An unfunded mandate is when the federal government requires a state government to do something without providing the money to pay for it. **(unfunded mandate)**
- _____ 6. Nebraska is the only state with a unicameral legislature, which means that its legislature has two houses. **(unicameral)**
- _____ 7. Political parties can use redistricting to gerrymander state and federal legislatures. **(redistricting)**
- _____ 8. Malapportionment refers to equal representation in state legislatures. **(malapportionment)**
- _____ 9. A meeting of a legislative body to conduct its business is called a session. **(session)**
- _____ 10. Revenue is the money that the government spends on projects. **(revenue)**
- _____ 11. To commute a criminal's sentence means to make his or her punishment more severe. **(commute)**

Vocabulary Activity (*continued*)

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DIRECTIONS: In the space provided before each word in the left column, write the letter of the correct definition.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| _____ 12. line-item veto | a. the person who follows another in an office or position |
| _____ 13. parole | b. type of court in which a judge or a jury listens to the evidence and reaches a verdict in favor of one party or another in the case |
| _____ 14. successor | c. to stop an employee from working for a certain amount of time |
| _____ 15. trial court | d. to receive a state charter officially recognizing the government of a locality |
| _____ 16. misdemeanor | e. the power to reject only a specific part of a bill |
| _____ 17. felony | f. an early release from prison as long as the person meets certain conditions |
| _____ 18. suspend | g. type of court in which a party that lost a case in a lower court asks judges to review that decision and reverse it |
| _____ 19. appellate court | h. a type of crime more serious than a misdemeanor |
| _____ 20. incorporate | i. the least serious type of crime |

DIRECTIONS: Read the following sentences. If the **bold** term is used correctly in the sentence, write *C* in the blank. If the term is used incorrectly, write *I*, and then rewrite the sentence correctly in the space provided. Include the bold vocabulary term in your explanation.

- _____ 21. The **professional** had no education or skills to qualify her for the position.
- _____ 22. A **special district** was formed to deal with the subject of education.
- _____ 23. The **ordinance** to make jaywalking illegal was passed by the state government.
- _____ 24. The **planning commission** visibly keeps the peace and patrols neighborhoods.
- _____ 25. A **charter school** must meet all public school regulations.
- _____ 26. An **at-large election** is an election for an area as a whole, such as an entire city.
- _____ 27. A **master plan** states a set of goals and explains how the government will carry them out to meet changing needs over time.

Vocabulary Activity *(continued)*

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28. DIRECTIONS: Use this graphic organizer to describe how each of the following contributes to a community. Include an example of each. Use the terms **short-term plan** and **long-term plan** in your answers.

	Short-term Plan	Long-term Plan
What It Is		
How It Contributes to Community		
Example		

DIRECTIONS: Read the following sentences and answer the questions.

29. Explain the terms **plaintiff** and **defendant** and the kind of cases they are involved in.

30. Explain what a **city charter** is and how it works.

31. Explain what a **tuition voucher** is and how it is used.

32. Explain what **community policing** is, and give examples of it.

33. Explain what a **resource** is. Provide examples.

Vocabulary Activity (*continued*)

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Academic Vocabulary

DIRECTIONS: From the vocabulary list, choose the best word to answer each question.

conflict, apparent, administer, survey, appreciate

34. Which is another word for “to value”?

35. Which term is another way of saying “to manage”?

36. Which word names the actions of measuring and examining?

37. Which word means that something is clear to see?

38. Which word indicates a disagreement?