

Be a Word Detective. Our word is self-evident.

Names of students on team: _____

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

Look up the word self-evident in several dictionaries. It is possible that this word may not be in your dictionary. It is not a very common word. Let's analyze it. That means let's take this word apart. Use the Merriam-Webster online dictionary. It can be found at <http://www.merriam-webster.com> The word self-evident is here as an entry word, but dig deeper by breaking the word apart.

This word has two parts separated by a hyphen. What are the two parts?

_____ and _____

With your team, look up the word *self*. Use the scroll box to scroll down past 4 definitions to this: *self- combining form*. With your team study this. Do you see *self-evident* in entry 2b? Write what it says here:

Now look up the root word or base word *evident*. This sheet will guide you through the parts of the dictionary entry.

Main Entry: This gives you the entry word

Pronunciation: Just like your traditional dictionaries

Function: part of speech given just as in other dictionaries

Etymology: This tells you where the word has come from. Middle English, Anglo-French, and Latin are other languages that came before English and contributed words to our modern English. Many words can be traced back to Latin, the language of the ancient Romans. This may be difficult to read, but do you see the final part *vidēre* to see — Can you think of any other words in English that are similar to this and might have come from the same root? If not, look in a book dictionary for words that begin with vide- Do any of them have to do with seeing?

Write any vide- words here:

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more at wit: This gives you a link you could click on to follow the thread farther.

Date: 14th century - this tells you when the word first appeared in English writings.

Remember 14th century dates begin with 1300.

You have finally arrived at the definition which behind the : (colon) Write it here:

synonyms: Many synonyms are listed here. Read through them and choose some to write on the lines here. Choose words that you understand or can explain to the class. (Any word that is underlined and in all caps on this site is a hyperlink and can be clicked on to go to that entry.)

Now that you have read through this online dictionary entry, work as a team to construct a meaningful definition of self-evident that you can share with the class. Write it here:

Be prepared to share your ideas with the class.