

News Watch

The News Watch Diversity Style Guide underwent a major revision in 2002 and is continually updated. It was compiled with the help of the Asian American Journalists Association; National Association of Black Journalists; National Association of Hispanic Journalists; National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association; the Native American Journalists Association; the National Center on Disability and Journalism; the South Asian Journalists Association; and "100 Questions and Answers About Arabs: A Journalist's Guide" by the *Detroit Free Press*.

News Watch also extends a special thank you to others who helped with the revision: Phil Avila, copy editor at the *Wall Street Journal*; Vada Crosby, page designer/copy editor at *The Hartford Courant*; Hank Glamann, assistant managing editor at *The Plain Dealer* in Cleveland; and Carol Reynolds-Srot, senior copy editor/travel at *The Miami Herald*.

Terms are listed alphabetically.

Some terms are cross-referenced.

A url is listed at the end of some definitions, indicating that a more detailed explanation can be found from the source.

The Diversity Style Guide will be updated as terminology changes.

Bookmark the online edition,

http://www.cijj.org/newswatch/?news_section_id=16

Send questions or comments to newsproj@sfsu.edu.

A A A A

1.5 generation

Bilingual, bicultural Korean Americans who were born in Korea and then immigrated to the United States as children.

abayah

A long, robe-like garment worn by an Arab woman, covering from the shoulders down to feet. Also called a "chador" or "jilbab."

able-bodied

Also known as "AB." Refers to a person who does not have a disability. "Non-disabled" is preferred. Able-bodied comes from a physical ability perspective, excluding the majority of people with disabilities. It also infers that people with disabilities do not have "able" bodies.

afflicted with (stricken with, suffers from, victim of)

Avoid. Use neutral language when describing a person who has a disability. Not every person with a disability suffers, is victim of, or is stricken. Instead use: "He has muscular dystrophy" or "she acquired a spinal cord injury."

Africa

Avoid presenting Africa as a monolith. It's the world's second largest continent, containing more than 40 nations with hundreds of distinct cultures and politics.

African American

Term describing U.S. permanent residents and citizens of African ancestry. Some people prefer the term "black." Best to ask individual preference. Use "black" as an

adjective (i.e., black people) not as a noun. The terms "black" and "African American" are not synonymous. Some people from outside Africa (i.e., the Caribbean) may be considered "black" but not "African American." See also "black," and "hyphenated American."

AIDS

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome is a serious and often fatal medical condition that compromises the human immune system, leaving the body defenseless against opportunistic infections. Individuals may be HIV-positive but not have developed AIDS. AIDS is spread most often through sexual contact; contaminated needles or syringes shared by drug abusers; infected blood or blood products; and from pregnant women to their offspring. Do not refer to AIDS as a death sentence, unless in a direct quote. Avoid equating AIDS solely with gay men. The disease affects all segments of societies worldwide. Do not use "full-blown AIDS." Avoid "AIDS sufferer" and "AIDS victim." Use "people with AIDS" or, if the context is medical, "AIDS patient."

AIDS transmission

Only relevant in a story about how people can get it; unprotected sex, blood products or dirty IV needles. Otherwise irrelevant to a story.

alcoholic

Avoid. Use "recovering" not "reformed" when referring to those with alcoholism.

alien

Avoid. Derogatory term for an immigrant. See "illegal immigrant."

Alien Land Laws

Enacted by many Western states in the early 1900s, these laws prevented Asians from owning land. Most of these laws were repealed in the late 1950s and 1960s.

All American

Refers to best high school and college athletes of the year. Not a synonym for white and blonde. Avoid using unless it is applied to anyone who is a U.S. citizen. A Eurocentric expression used to conjure up images of blonde, blue-eyed people who represent traditional images of white Americans. In a U.S. population of every ethnicity, use of "All American" until now, implies that anyone not of European descent is "other" and is not "All American." See also "Caucasian."

Amerasians

The term often is used to refer to children born in Korea of non-Asian-American fathers and Korean mothers, or Vietnamese mothers and non-Asian-American fathers.

America

Refers to the entire Western hemisphere and does not apply solely to the United States.

American Indian

Synonymous with "Native American." Some indigenous people in the United States prefer "American Indian" over "Native American." Best to ask individual preference. When possible, use national affiliation such as Navajo, Hopi, Cherokee. Use "native-born" to describe someone who is born in the United States, but isn't American Indian.

American Indian Movement

Activist organization known as AIM. Founded in 1968 to promote civil rights for Native Americans. AIM has sought recognition of treaty rights through sit-ins and highly visible protests. In 1972, AIM organized the "Trail of Broken Treaties," converging on Washington, D.C., before the presidential election. AIM has branches across the United States.

ASL

American Sign Language.

Americans with Disabilities Act

(ADA) This is federal civil rights legislation created in 1990 to address discrimination on the basis of disability in employment, public accommodations, transportation, telecommunications as well as state and local government services. ADA is acceptable on second reference.

Angel Island

The West Coast counterpart to Ellis Island, N.Y. A holding area in the San Francisco Bay established in 1910 to clear Chinese and other Asian immigrants. During World War II, Japanese Americans were confined on Ellis Island. See "Executive Order 9066" and "internment."

Arab

Refers to nation or people from an Arabic-speaking country. Not synonymous with Muslim. When referring to events in a specific country, name the country, rather than generalizing "Arab." Do not imply in headlines or text that "Arab" equals Muslim, holy war or terrorist. Note: Iran is not an Arab country. The majority of Iranian people are Persian and the language is Farsi.

ARC

AIDS-Related Complex. Replaced by HIV disease. Obsolete, do not use.

Asian American

A broad term describing U.S. permanent residents and citizens of Asian ancestry, which can include China, Japan, South Korea, India, Philippines, etc. For accuracy, it is recommended to use person's specific ethnic origin. See also "hyphenated Americans," and "Pacific Islander."

Asian Exclusion Acts

Laws barring or sharply restricting the immigration of Asians to the United States. The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 barred Chinese laborers and prohibited Chinese from applying for citizenship. Later repealed in 1943. The 1924 Oriental Exclusion Act banned immigration from Asia. The 1934 Tydings-McDuffie Act imposed an annual quota of 50 Filipino immigrants. Only after 1965, with immigration laws designed to encourage European immigration, did Asian immigration also expand.

Asian Indian

Avoid. When distinguishing from Native Americans, use "people from India," or "Indian Americans " when referring to people U.S. permanent residents and citizens of Indian ancestry.

Asiatic

Avoid. A 19th century adjective typically used in "scientific" European treatises assuming the superiority of the white race. Implies enemy race. Instead use Asian, Asian Pacific American, Pacific Islander or Asian American. See also "Asian American" and "Caucasian."

assistance animal (guide dog, Seeing Eye dog, service animal)
There is no uniform terminology. Animals, mostly dogs, provide services to a person with a disability, including but not limited to people who use wheelchairs, are blind, deaf, or those who have seizures.

B B B B**bachelor society**

Refers to the predominately male social settings that dominated U.S. Chinatowns before World War II. Few Chinese women were allowed to immigrate to the United States until after the war.

Balouch

Pakistani language spoken in the eastern Pakistani province of Istan.

banana

Avoid. Slang term and pejorative reference used by Asian Americans when referring to Asian Americans who identify more with whites than with other Asian Americans. Use only in direct quotes.

Bangladesh

Formerly the eastern section of Pakistan (known as East Pakistan), Bangladesh became independent after a 1971 civil war.

Banzai

A Japanese battle cry or patriotic cheer.

barrio

Avoid. Conjures up stereotypes about low-income Latino neighborhoods. Use the name of the neighborhood. See also "ghetto."

Bengal, Bengali, Bangali, Bangla

During partition, the Indian state of Bengal was divided into two: the mostly Hindu state of West Bengal, which went to India, and the mostly Muslim country of East Pakistan, now Bangladesh. However, political borders are not necessarily cultural borders. Both Bangladeshis and West Bengalis speak the same language (Bengali, though with slightly different accents), and call themselves "Bengalis" or "Bangalis" (never Bangalees). Travelers need a passport to go from one to the other.

Bharat

The official Sanskrit name of India.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)

India's strongest opposition party for much of the 1990s, and today the ruling party. During the 1999 parliamentary elections, the party distanced itself from some of its strident anti-Muslim and non-secular policies to highlight more pragmatic issues such as economic reforms.

bilingual education

An education program for children whose native language is not English. Children are taught for a portion of the day in their native language, with the goal of moving them into English classes. The Bilingual Education Act of 1968 provided federal funding to local schools for giving students who spoke little or no English instruction in their native language. The U.S. Supreme Court soon after objected to placing children who spoke little or no English in English-only classrooms to "sink or swim." The court's 1974 decision in *Lau vs. Nichols* required schools to teach students in a language they understood

bindi

The Hindi name for the decoration some South Asian women wear on their forehead. Though various explanations of its religious significance have been postulated (often to satisfy Western curiosity), the bindi remains for most communities a decoration similar to makeup or jewelry. Contrary to popular perception, the bindi does not necessarily indicate the marital status of a woman.

birth defect

Avoid the term "defect" or "defective" when describing a disability. Instead use "congenital disability," "born with a disability," or "disability since birth."

bisexual

An individual sexually attracted to members of both genders. Does not presume non-monogamy.

black

Term used to describe U.S. permanent residents and citizens of African ancestry. Some people prefer the term "black" over "African American." Best to ask individual preference. Use "black" as an adjective (i.e., black people) not as a noun. The terms "black" and "African American" are not synonymous. Some people from outside Africa (i.e., the Caribbean) may be considered "black" but not "African American." See "African American" and "hyphenated American."

Black Africa

Avoid. See "Africa."

Black Muslim

A person belonging to the Nation of Islam in the United States prior to

1985. Dissolved to join the orthodox Islamic community. Members of the Nation of Islam led by Louis Farrakhan, are referred to as Muslims.

blind

Use as an adjective, not as a noun. Describes a person with complete loss of sight. For others, use terms such as "visually impaired," "person with low vision" or "partially sighted."

boat people

Refugees from Vietnam who fled in boats beginning in 1978. About half of the boat people were ethnic Chinese, who dominated small business and trade in Vietnam.

Bombay

India officially changed the name of this, its largest city, to Mumbai.

Bombay Stock Exchange

The oldest stock market in Asia. The benchmark indicator is the Sensex.

Boricua

Interchangeable with Puerto Rican. Some Puerto Ricans call themselves "Boricuas" as a means to show their cultural pride and reaffirm their indigenous heritage, in honor of the Taínos, who called the island "Borinquen." Usage of "Boricua" has grown in its popularity in recent years.

Bracero Program

In 1942, the United States and Mexico adopted the "Bracero Program." It allowed thousands of Mexicans to enter the United States as temporary workers in the agricultural industry. The program ended in 1964. Many Chicano activists in the 1960s objected to this program because, they said, Mexicans were brought in the United

States to toil in backbreaking manual work, but not given opportunities to improve their standard of living.

brave

Offensive term when used as a noun to describe American Indian males.

buck

Avoid. Racial slur for a young black or American Indian man.

buckteeth, bucktooth

Avoid. The stereotypical caricatures of Asians drawn with this feature are racist and offensive.

Buddahead

Avoid (slang). Pejorative reference sometimes used by Japanese Americans to describe themselves or other Japanese Americans. Use only in direct quotes.

bui doi (boo-ee duhy)

Vietnamese for "Children of the Dust," it originally referred only to homeless Vietnamese children who roamed the streets in that nation. But after 1972, it also referred to Amerasian children born between 1965 and 1972. See also "Amerasians."

C C C C

Camel jockey, camel driver

Avoid (racial slur). Derogatory term for Arabs.

camp

When Japanese Americans refer to "camp," they mean the camps into which they were forced to relocate during World War II. Also called relocation, detention, internment or concentration camps. See also "Executive Order 9066."

campesino

Spanish term for an individual who is from the rural country.

Cantonese

Chinese dialect spoken in and around Canton now known as Guangzhou, near the South China Sea. The dialect of many of the early Chinese immigrants to the United States from the 1840s to 1870s. The principal dialect of Hong Kong and is still widely spoken in U.S. Chinatowns.

Cao-Dai

Vietnamese religion.

caste system

Although discrimination based on it is banned, the social hierarchies of the caste system continue to be recognized in various parts of India, particularly in villages. These hierarchies were a corruption of a medieval system of classification that grouped people and families by their inherited trades -- priests, merchants, soldiers and laborers.

Caucasian

Synonym for white, or light-skinned, people originally from Europe and adjacent regions of Africa and Asia. Named after the Caucasus mountain range between Russia and Georgia. Coined in 1795 by Johann Friedrich Blumenach (1752-1840), a German anatomist and naturalist, who concluded that because the people of the Caucasus region were "the most beautiful race of men," they were "with greatest probability" the first human beings created. See also "All American."

cerebral palsy (CP)

Do not refer to a person as "cerebral palsy victim," "cerebral palsied," "spastic" or as "a CP." CP can be used to describe the disability but not a person who has the disability.

chador

Head scarf or long, robe-like garment worn by some Arab women to practice hijab, Islamic modesty. Also called an "abayah" or "jilbab." See also "hijab."

Chaebol (jeh-bol)

Korean multinational conglomerates, including such companies as Hyundai, Samsung and Daewoo.

Chicano/Chicana

A term for Mexican Americans popularized by activists during the 1960s and 1970s. It was meant to reflect Mexican Americans' dual heritages and mixed culture, their presence for centuries in the United States, and their right to be equal U.S. citizens. Some activists used the word to relate their struggle to the Mexican Aztecs' struggle for cultural and political survival during the Spanish conquest. Some Mexican Americans do not relate to the term, seeing it as a name that reflects militant activism. They say the term is outdated, while others find it offensive. Yet others prefer it, arguing that it reflects pride in both their Mexican and U.S. heritages. Best to ask individual preference.

China doll

Avoid. Reinforces stereotypes of Asian women as exotic and submissive sex objects. Use only in direct quotes.

Chinaman

Avoid. A racial slur often used against anyone of Asian ancestry.

Chinaman's chance

Avoid. Refers to having little or no chance of succeeding. Possibly derived from the fate of Chinese men building the transcontinental railroad. They were subjected to extreme physical danger and died at a high rate from placing explosives on cliffs and working in tunnels. Others believe it derives from lynchings and other racist attacks by white mobs against Chinese, beginning in the 1850s. Use only in direct quotes.

Chinatown

Any one of several Chinese-American communities in the United States.

Chinese, Chinese American

Use "Chinese" when referring to anyone of Chinese ancestry, but "Chinese American" when referring to U.S. permanent residents and citizens of Chinese ancestry. See also "hyphenated American."

Chinese fire drill

Avoid. Racist phrase referring to chaotic situations. Also refers to a game that often takes place at a stoplight in which people in a vehicle get out, run around the vehicle and re-enter in a haphazard way before the traffic light turns green.

Chinese Zodiac

The Chinese Zodiac is based on a lunar calendar and 12-year cycle, with each year represented by an animal. The animals are attributed with certain characteristics that are applied to human behavior. The 12 animals and their respective years for three cycles are: Sheep 1991, 2003, 2015; Monkey 1992, 2004, 2016; Rooster 1993, 2005, 2017; Dog 1982, 1994, 2006;

Pig 1983, 1995, 2007; Rat 1984, 1996, 2008; Ox 1985, 1997, 2009; Tiger 1986, 1998, 2010; Rabbit 1987, 1999, 2011; Dragon 1988, 2000, 2012; Snake 1989, 2001, 2013; Horse 1990, 2002, 2014.

chink

Avoid. Racial slur referring to Chinese and Chinese Americans. Use only in direct quotes.

Cho, Chow, Tsau

Chinese dialect that can be spelled in three ways.

cholo

Avoid. A derogatory term used to describe Latino males. Use only in direct quotes.

circle the wagons

Avoid. Offensive phrase when used to describe people who are protecting themselves from trouble. It conjures up stereotypical images of savage American Indians.

closeted, in the closet

Refers to a person who hides his or her sexual orientation or gender identity.

coconut

Avoid. Slang. A pejorative reference for Filipinos and Filipino Americans who identify more with whites than with Filipinos. The term is also a put down for a non-sophisticated Pacific Islander.

cognitive disability

An umbrella term with different meanings to different groups depending upon the context and perspective. Naming the specific disability is preferred. Some people

with mental retardation prefer cognitive disability.

colored

Not synonymous with people of color. Avoid when referring to people in the United States because it's considered derogatory. In parts of Africa, it sometimes means mixed race. If used, include an explanation.

combat language

Avoid the language of war when writing about people of color, and the story is not about a specific war. Examples of terms to avoid: Tokyo's fashion invasion; on the warpath; circling the wagons.

coming out

Short for coming out of the closet, which is the process of accepting one's own sexuality and then letting others know of one's previously hidden sexual orientation or gender identity. See also "closeted" and "outing."

commitment ceremony

A formal, marriage-like gathering that recognizes the declaration of members of the same sex to each other. Same-sex marriages are not legally recognized in the United States. (In April 2001, the Netherlands became the first nation to offer legal marriage to same-sex couples who are citizens or legal residents.)

confined to a wheelchair

Avoid. People use wheelchairs for independent mobility. Use "person who uses a wheelchair" or "wheelchair-user." Avoid "wheelchair-bound," "wheelchair rider" and "vertically challenged." See also "wheelchair."

Confucian work ethic

Avoid. Stereotypical term referring to the tendency of some Asians to work hard and keep quiet. Evokes images of Asians as mindless hordes unable to think or act creatively.

Confucius say

Avoid. Stereotypical saying poking fun at Asian Americans as speaking in proverbs and not having original thoughts or actions.

congenital disability

A person who has a congenital disability has a disability since birth. Avoid using "defect" or "defective" when describing a disability.

coolie

Menial laborer. Possibly derived from the word "koli," an aboriginal race in western India, or from the Chinese term "ku-li," meaning "bitter strength" or "bitter labor." The term came to refer to laborers from China who were brought around the world in the coolie trade in the 1800s.

cripple, crippled, crippled with

Avoid. Derogatory term used to describe a person with a disability.

cross-dressing

Wearing clothing most often associated with members of the opposite gender. Not necessarily connected to sexual orientation. See also "transvestite."

cruising

Visiting places where opportunities exist to meet people, specifically potential sexual partners. Not exclusively a gay phenomenon.

D D D D

Dalit

More respectful and current term for castes once called "untouchables." M.K. Gandhi coined the term Harijan (children of God) to refer to these castes.

Dark Continent

Avoid. Derogatory term for Africa.

deaf

Capitalize when a person identifies as culturally deaf. Deafness refers to a profound degree of hearing loss that prevents understanding speech through the ear. "Hearing impaired" and "hearing loss" are generic terms used by some individuals to indicate any degree of hearing loss, from mild to profound. These terms include people who are hard of hearing and deaf. Others prefer "hard of hearing," "partial hearing loss" or "partially deaf." Hard of hearing refers to a mild to moderate hearing loss that may or may not be corrected with amplification. Best to ask individual preference. Avoid using "deaf and dumb" and "deaf-mute."

deaf-dumb, deaf-mute

Avoid. The preferred term is an individual who does not hear and speak/voice. A person who is mute may be able to hear.

defect, defective

Avoid using term to describe a disability. Best to name the disability. Offensive example: "She suffers from a birth defect." Instead use "she has a congenital disability."

deformed

Avoid. Best to name the disability.

Democratic Republic of the Congo Formerly Zaire.

desi

Pronounced "DAY-see" or "DEHsee," it is the Hindi word for "from my country." A colloquial name for people who trace their descent to South Asia, especially India and Pakistan.

developmental disabilities

The term generally is used to refer to individuals whose disabilities affect development, acquired at birth or childhood. The term tends to be generalized to mean more than the federal and/or state legal definitions. The legal definition can vary from state to state. Check with your respective state.

disability, disabled

General term used for functional limitations that hinder one or more of the major life activities such as walking, lifting, learning, breathing, etc. Different laws might define disability differently. When describing an individual do not include disability unless pertinent to the story. Preferred to refer to "the writer, who has a disability" rather than "the disabled writer." Disability and the people who have disabilities are not monolithic. Use "disability community," "disability activist," etc.

Diwali, Deepavali

One of the most festive holidays observed by Hindus, Diwali generally occurs during the autumn. While it is celebrated in many parts of North India as the start of the new year, Diwali should not be referred to as the Hindu New Year or the Indian New Year. No such thing exists. Nor is

there any one explanation of Diwali's significance that is applicable to all Hindus. Because of ethnic variations from state to state, the traditional new year is celebrated at different times in different parts of the country.

domestic partner

Unmarried partners (gays, lesbians and heterosexuals) who share living quarters. Typically used in connection with legal and insurance matters.

don't ask, don't tell

Shorthand for "Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue," the U.S. military's policy on gays and lesbians. Acceptable in headlines, but in text the full phrase adds important balance. Under the policy instituted in 1993, the military is not to ask service members about their sexual orientation, service members are not to tell others about their orientation, and the military is not to pursue rumors about members' sexual orientation.

dotbusting

Avoid (slang). A pejorative term used on the East Coast by those perpetrating violence against people from India. It is derived from the practice of some women from India wearing a painted dot, or bindi, on their forehead.

down low

Term used by some bisexual men of color to refer to men who have sex with other men without the knowledge of their female partners. Sometimes abbreviated as DL. See also "MSM."

Down syndrome

Not Down's. It is a genetic,

chromosomal disorder first reported in 1866 by Dr. J. Langdon Down. Preferred term is "person with Down syndrome." Do not use "Down syndrome child." A syndrome is not a disease or illness. Avoid using Mongoloid.

drag

Attire of the opposite gender.

drag queen

A man who dresses in female attire for show, often in order to perform. Not synonymous with transvestite. See also "queen."

dragon lady

Avoid. Stereotypical image of Asian women as sinister and evil.

dumb

Avoid. Derogatory term referring to a person who does not voice or speak, or has a perceived low intellectual ability.

dwarf

Avoid. A medical term applied to people who are short stature. Do not use medical model terms when describing the experience of living with a disability. Preferred term is "person of short stature" or "little people." See also "little people," "midget," and "short stature."

dyke

Originally a pejorative term for a lesbian, it is now being reclaimed by some lesbians. Caution: still extremely offensive when used as an epithet.

E E E E

East Indian

Vague geographic term referring to a

loose grouping of countries in Southeastern Asian. Not to be confused with people from India or with "Asian Indians" or with the Dutch East Indies, a former Dutch colony in the Atlantic. Because of the confusion, it's best to avoid the term and use the specific name.

egg

Avoid. Slang. A pejorative term used by Asian Americans to describe whites who are enamored with Asians or Asian culture.

Eid al-Adha

Islamic holiday. The last day of the hajj, the pilgrimage to Mecca. See also "Ramadan."

For more information, go to the Web site of the *Detroit Free Press*, <http://www.freep.com/jobspage/arabs.htm>.

Eid al-Fitr

Islamic holiday. The end of Ramadan. See also "Ramadan."

For more information, go to the Web site of the *Detroit Free Press*, <http://www.freep.com/jobspage/arabs.htm>.

emigrant

See "immigrant."

English as a Second Language (ESL)

Unlike immersion, ESL includes some instruction in a student's native language. Usually, classes are comprised of students who speak many different languages but are not fluent in English. They may attend classes for only a portion of the day to work on English skills.

English immersion

In this program, students who are not fluent in English are taught entirely in English. Teachers give lessons in

simplified English so students learn English and academic subjects.

Eskimos

When referring to Americans Indians in Alaska, acceptable to use for Inupiat Eskimos or Yupik Eskimos. Do not use for Aleuts or Inuits.

Eurasian

Person of mixed white and Asian heritage. Not derogatory. See also "Amerasian."

Eurocentric

Avoid geographic terms that place Europe at the center of the world. Examples: Far East, New World, Old World, Orient, Occident.

ex-gay (adj.)

The movement, mostly rooted in conservative religions, that aims to change the sexual attraction of individuals from the same-sex to opposite-sex.

Exclusion Acts

The Chinese Exclusion Act, enacted in 1882, barred immigration of Chinese laborers to the United States and prohibited Chinese from becoming naturalized citizens. At the time, about 105,000 Chinese -- 100,000 of them male -- were living in the United States. The act was repealed in 1943, when Congress established a quota of 105 Chinese immigrants per year. The 1917 Immigration Act barred admission of natives of "islands not possessed by the United States adjacent to the continent of Asia" and natives of most of Asia. The 1924 National Origins Act (a.k.a. Immigration Quota Act) barred immigration of all foreigners "ineligible for citizenship" that is, Asian Pacific

Islanders. The 1934 Tydings-McDuffie Act imposed a quota of 50 Filipino immigrants a year. In 1965, the United States granted Asian countries equal status in immigration laws with European countries.

Executive Order 9066

President Franklin D. Roosevelt's order on Feb. 19, 1942, that led to the forcible internment of more than 110,000 U.S. persons of Japanese ancestry, two-thirds of whom were U.S. citizens. A divided cabinet recommended the measure to Roosevelt, with the Office of Naval Intelligence affirming the loyalty of Japanese Americans. The order was ostensibly designed to combat sabotage, but Americans of German and Italian heritage, along with Japanese Americans living in Hawaii, were largely exempt. The U.S. Supreme Court repeatedly affirmed the constitutionality of the order, but Congress, in 1983, called it "a grave injustice." See also "Angel Island" and "internment."

exotic

Avoid when describing Asian, African, Latino, or American Indian cultures, unless also using for European and American culture.

F F F F

F.O.B.

Avoid. Acronym for "fresh off the boat." Derogatory term for newly arrived Asian immigrants. Use only in direct quotes.

FTM

Acronym for "female to male." A transgender person who, at birth or by determination of parents or doctors,

has a biological identity of female but a gender identity of male. Those who have undergone surgery are sometimes described as "post-op FTMs" (for post-operative). See also "gender identity" and "intersex."

fag, faggot

Originally a pejorative term for a gay male, it is now being reclaimed by some gay men. Caution: still extremely offensive when used as an epithet.

Far East

Avoid. Denotes Asia, as viewed from London. Use Asia, East Asia or Southeast Asia. See also "Eurocentric."

Filipino, Filipina

Use "Filipino" in reference to males from the Philippines; "Filipina" in reference to females from the Philippines. Some Filipino Americans, often younger, prefer "Pilipino" since Tagalog, the leading dialect of the Philippines, lacks an "F" sound.

fit

Avoid. Refers to a seizure or a person having a seizure.

Five Pillars of Islam

Minimum sacred obligations for followers who are able to observe them. Belief in the shehada, the statement that "There is no god but God, and Muhammad is his prophet"; salat, or prayer five times a day; zakat, the sharing of alms with the poor; fasting during the holy month of Ramadan; and the hajj, or pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia.

flip

Avoid. Racial slur. A derogatory term for Filipinos and Filipino Americans.

Use only in direct quotes.

Foreign Miners Tax

Enacted in 1856 against Chinese gold miners and was the first of many laws aimed at restricting the economic activities of Asians.

Four Tigers

A nickname for South Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan, whose economies grew rapidly in the 1990s but have encountered difficulties in recent years.

Fu Manchu

A fictitious Chinese character, created in 1913 by novelist Sax Rohmer, who came to reinforce stereotypes and fears by white Americans of the Chinese as an evil race.

fundamentalism, fundamentalist

A Christian concept implying a literal interpretation of the Bible. Sometimes used to describe people who base political actions on religious beliefs. Not synonymous with any religion, especially Islam.

G G G G

gay

Preferable in all references as a synonym for male homosexual. Lesbian is preferred term for women. To include both, use "gay men and lesbians." Best to use "gay" as an adjective, not a noun, such as "gay man," "gay woman," "gay people." In headlines where space is an issue, gay(s) is acceptable to describe both. See also "queer."

gay bashing

Violent hate crime motivated by

antigay politics or homophobia.

gay killer

Avoid. Straight murderers are not called straight killers. Sexual orientation does not cause murder.

gay/lesbian relationships

Gay, lesbian and bisexual people use various terms to describe their commitments. Best to ask individual preference. If not, "partner" is generally acceptable.

gay lifestyle

Avoid. There is no specific gay lifestyle, just as there is no specific heterosexual lifestyle.

gay slaying, homosexual killing

Avoid, unless in a hate crime, in which "anti-gay killing" could be used. Otherwise it's ambiguous whether reference is to killer or victim.

gay underworld, gay underground

Avoid. If it's not a closeted world, it's not a secret. Anyone can walk into a gay bar.

gay woman

Use instead of lesbian if preferred by the person.

gender identity

An individual's emotional and psychological sense of being male or female. Not necessarily the same as an individual's biological identity.

ghee

The *New York Times* crossword clue refers to it as "Hindu clarified butter." But all communities in India consume ghee.

ghetto

Avoid. Do not use to describe low-

income areas with residents who are predominantly people of color. Better to name the neighborhood. See also "barrio."

ghetto blaster, ghetto box

Avoid. Refers to a portable radio but implies stereotype about who owns the radio. Use "boombox."

Gold Mountain

Name given to California by Chinese who came to the state in the 1850s searching for gold. They intended to return to China with their new-found riches. Instead, many were driven off the mines into jobs in laundries, restaurants or on the railroads, and never returned to their homelands.

gook

Avoid. Racial slur. A derogatory term for Asians, widely used by American GIs during the Korean War and again during the Vietnam War. Thought to be a corruption of "Hankook," or Korea.

Guagua aérea

Literally "air bus," a term coined by Puerto Rican writer José Luis Gonzalez. Refers to the frequency of migration between mainland United States and Puerto Rico.

guide dog (assistance animal, Seeing Eye dog, service animal)

There is no uniform terminology. Animals, mostly dogs, provide services to a person with a disability, including but not limited to those who use wheelchairs, are blind, deaf, or those who have seizures.

Gurdwara

A Sikh place of worship (Punjabi for

"doorway to the guru"). Similar to church for Christians and mosque for Muslims. The gurdwara contains a copy of the Adi Granth, the sacred scripture of Sikhism. There are no idols in Sikhism. See also "Sikhism." For more information, see SAJA's Web site, <http://www.saja.org/stylebook.html>.

Gujarati

Indian language spoken in Western India.

gung hay fat choy

Cantonese greeting for the Chinese new year, or lunar new year, which falls on the first full moon of the lunar calendar. It can occur between late January and mid-February. "Gung hay fat choy" is said to wish someone prosperity and does not literally mean "Happy New Year."

H H H H

HIV

Human immunodeficiency virus. Virus that causes AIDS. HIV positive means testing positive for the antibodies to HIV, which implies carrying HIV. Note: HIV-virus is redundant. AIDS doctors and researchers are using the term "HIV disease" more because there are other types of acquired immune deficiencies caused by toxins and rare but deadly diseases that are unrelated to what we now call AIDS. See also "AIDS."

hajj (not capitalized)

A pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia, the birthplace of Mohammed. Muslims able to afford the journey is expected to make the hajj at least once in their lifetime. A person who has undertaken this pilgrimage is known as a hajji (or haji). See also "Ramadan."

hakujin (Hah-koo-jeen)
Japanese for white person. Not necessarily derogatory.

half-blood, half-breed
Avoid. Derogatory term for an American Indian of mixed heritage.

handicap, handicapped
Avoid when describing a disability. Can be used when citing laws and situations.

haole (hah-oh-leh)
Hawaiian term for white person. It originally meant foreigner. Not necessarily derogatory.

hamsa
A type of jewelry or charm with an eye or an eye on a hand. A nonreligious symbol for protection or good luck. Many people of different religions share this cultural tradition.

hapa, happa (hah-pah)
Hawaiian term for someone of mixed heritage, generally of Asian Pacific Islander and white parents. Short for "hapa haole," or "half-white," it is increasingly used among mainland Asian Americans. Not necessarily derogatory.

Hawaiian, Native Hawaiian
Refers to a person having origins in any of the peoples of the Hawaiian Islands. Also acceptable: "Native Hawaiian." Does not refer to everybody living in Hawaii. When referring to non-native Hawaiians living in Hawaii, use "those in Hawaii," "resident of Hawaii" or "state residents."

heterosexism
Presumption that heterosexuality is universal and/or superior to homosexuality. Also: prejudice, bias or discrimination based on that presumption.

heterosexual community, straight community
Avoid. There is no one community in the United States encompassing all heterosexuals.

hijab
Islamic teachings of modesty. Some Arab women wear garments covering their faces or heads. This is a religious practice. Hijab is also a kind of head scarf. See also "abayah," "chador" and "jilbab."

Hindi
One of the two official languages of India, and one of 19 distinct languages spoken around the country. Do not confuse Hindi with Hindu. Hindu is a religious designation.

Hindu, Hinduism
Designating the religion practiced by the majority of Indians, and designating certain cultural features of South and Southeast Asia. Hinduism does not have a founder or defining text. Do not confuse with Hindi, which is a language. Hinduism is a polytheistic religion that has evolved over thousands of years. Many Hindus regard the 2,000-page *Vedas* and the *Gita* (a segment of the epic *Mahabharata*) as sacred texts.

Hindustan
This term once referred to a particular empire in northern India, but is now used to refer generally to the Indian subcontinent or the

Republic of India.

Hindustani

An unofficial language spoken in northern India, a mixture of Urdu and Hindi.

Hipsing

An old-fashioned Chinese family clan that developed the phrase "New Chinatown."

Hispanic

Umbrella term referring to a person from anywhere in Latin America, as well as U.S. residents or citizens who identify themselves as having Latin American ancestry. Some people prefer "Latino." Others use the two terms interchangeably or prefer a term indicating their national origin, such as Colombian, Cuban, Mexican American, etc. On the West Coast, people tend to use "Latino;" in the northeast and southwest, more people use "Hispanic." Some people regard Hispanic as insulting because they consider it a term created by the U.S. government to lump together anyone of Latin American and Spanish origin. Best to ask individual preference.

For more information, see NAHJ's Web site, http://www.nahj.org/resourceguide/chapter_1.html.

Hmong (Mong or Mung)

An ethnic group in southern China, Vietnam, Laos and Thailand. Approximately 50,000 Hmong came to America as refugees in the mid-1970s, uprooted from their homeland largely as a result of a civil war in Laos.

Hoa-Hoa

Vietnamese religion.

homo

Avoid. Derogatory term for

homosexual.

homosexual

A person who is attracted to members of the same gender. Of or relating to sexual and affectionate attraction to members of the same gender. Appropriate in medical or sexual contexts. See also "gay/lesbian."

hui (WHO-ee)

Revolving credit associations used by Chinese immigrants to pool money and help each other start small businesses.

hyphenated American

When describing a U.S. permanent resident or citizen and his or her race, use the noun without the hyphen to denote current group membership, such as "Japanese American, African American, Mexican American." In compound phrases, where the term is used as an adjective (e.g., French-Canadian folklore), use a hyphen. Some people see a pejorative connotation to using a hyphen in part because of Theodore Roosevelt's denunciation in 1915 of "hyphenated Americans" who did not join the American mainstream.

Excerpt from his speech:

"There is no room in this country for hyphenated Americanism. ... Americanism is a matter of the spirit and of the soul. Our allegiance must be purely to the United States. We must unsparingly condemn any man who holds any other allegiance. But if he is heartily and singly loyal to this Republic, then no matter where he was born, he is just as good an American as any one else. ... There is no such thing as a hyphenated American who is a good American. The only man who is a good American is the man who is an American and nothing else."



illegal immigrant

Recommended terms are "undocumented worker" or "undocumented immigrant." "Illegal immigrant" is a term used to describe the immigration status of people who do not have the federal documentation to show they are legally entitled to work, visit or live in the United States. People who are undocumented by the Immigration and Nationalization Service (INS) do not have the proper visas to be in the United States legally. Many enter the country illegally, but a large number of this group initially had valid visas, but did not return to their native countries when their visas expired. Some former students fall into the latter category. Many Latinos decry usage of "illegal immigrant" because they say it criminalizes the person rather than the actual act of illegally entering or residing in the United States without federal documents. Some Latinos say such terms as "illegal alien" or "illegal immigrant" can often be used pejoratively in common parlance and can pack a powerful emotional wallop for those on the receiving end. Avoid using "illegal" as a noun. See also "alien."

For more information, see NAHJ's Web site, http://www.nahj.org/resourceguide/chapter_1.html.

imam

Leader of prayer at a mosque. Might also be called a sheik. To journalists, they can be an important community leader and a good source of information about local Muslims.

For more information, go to the Web site of the *Detroit Free Press*, <http://www.freep.com/jobspage/arabs.htm>.

immigrant, emigrant

Both terms refer to one who leaves his

or her country to settle in another country. Both terms refer to the same person. In reference to the United States, an "emigrant" is one who leaves his or her country; an "immigrant" is one who enters and settles in the United States.

immigration

Use neutral terms (e.g., arrival) to describe immigration. Avoid adjectives that carry negative connotations such as flood, tidal wave, horde, deluge.

India

The largest and most populous nation on the Indian subcontinent.

Population: 975 million. Capital is New Delhi.

Indian, Indian American

Use "Indian" or "person from India" to refer to a person with ancestral ties to India. Use "Indian American" to refer to a U.S. permanent resident or citizen with ancestral ties to India. Do not confuse with "American Indian." Do not use to refer to indigenous peoples of the United States. See also "American Indian," "hyphenated American," and "Native American."

Indian country

A legal term used in Title 18 of the U.S. Code. It broadly defines federal and tribal jurisdiction in crimes affecting American Indians on reservations. But it also has popular usage, describing reservations and areas with American Indian populations.

Indian languages

India has two official languages, English and Hindi, and 17 regional languages recognized by the central government. These languages are not

dialects.

Indian names

Indian names follow different patterns, depending on a person's ethnicity, caste, subcaste or other classification. Some families modify naming practices upon migrating to the West to conform to local customs. There is no general rule. For second references on Indian names, the last name (whether it is the given name or the family name) is usually considered the surname. Best to ask individual preference.

Indo

A modifier used to denote something of Indian origin or with an India connection; similar to "Sino" for China. For example, "Indo-U.S. relations." Also increasingly used to refer to the South Asian diaspora and not just India the country. Indo- American art may refer to art by South Asians of all backgrounds, not just India.

Indochinese

Refers usually to people from Vietnam, Cambodia (Kampuchea), or Laos. The term is falling into less frequent use because of its colonial context. The peninsula comprising these countries was once called French Indochina -- and because it does not, strictly speaking, include persons from Thailand, Burma, and other Southeast Asian nations. A more inclusive term is "Southeast Asians."

infantile paralysis

Avoid. Preferred term is "polio."

injun

Avoid. Racial slur referring to American Indians.

injury, injuries

An injury is "sustained" or "received," not suffered.

inner city

Avoid. Conjures stereotypical view of poor, supposedly crime-ridden, urban neighborhoods where people of color are living.

internment

During World War II, the U.S. government incarcerated 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry, two-thirds of them U.S. citizens. They were ordered to sell their homes and business, usually at fire-sale prices, then to move to "relocation centers" from the California deserts to the swamps of Arkansas. The last internees were released in 1946. See also "Angel Island" and "Executive Order 9066."

intersex (adj.)

People born with some combination of male and female genitalia. Parents and physicians usually will determine the gender of the child, resulting in surgery or hormone treatment. Many intersex adults seek an end to this practice. See also "camp."

invalid

Avoid. Derogatory term referring to a person with a disability.

issei (ee-say)

Refers to first-generation Japanese immigrants. The term mainly has historical meaning since immigration in the early 20th century was so restricted that generations were sharply defined. Present-day Japanese immigrants would not call themselves issei. See also "nisei," "sansei" and "yonsei."

Islam

Religion. Adjective is Islamic. See also "Muslim."

Islamist

A Muslim who wants Islam to define a country's national and international politics. Not all Muslims are Islamists.

J J J J**J-town**

Short for Japantown. Any one of several Japanese-American communities in the United States. See also "Nihonmachi."

jap

Avoid (racial slur), except in direct quotes. A derogatory term for Japanese or Japanese Americans, used widely by white Americans to whip up hatred against Japanese and Japanese Americans before and during World War II.

Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)

The nation's oldest and most prominent Japanese American civic and civil rights organization, based in San Francisco and founded in 1929.

Japanese, Japanese American

Use Japanese when referring to anyone of Japanese ancestry, but use Japanese American when specifically referring to those of Japanese ancestry who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents. See also "hyphenated Americans."

Jíbaro/Guajiro

Respectively, Puerto Rican and Cuban

terms for rural islanders.

jihad

An Arabic word the root of which is Jahada, which means to strive for a better way of life. Jihad should not be confused with Holy War; the latter does not exist in Islam nor will Islam allow its followers to be involved in a Holy War. The latter refers to the Holy War of the Crusaders. It should never be interpreted as a way to force belief on others since there is an explicit verse in the Quran that says "There is no compulsion in religion," Al-Quran: Al Baqarah (2:256). Jihad is a war against any unjust regime. If such a regime exists, a war is to be waged against the leaders, but not against the people of that country. Other meanings include endeavor, strain, exertion and diligence.

For more on this term, see the Web site for the Muslim Students Association at the University of Southern California, <http://www.usc.edu/dept/MSA/reference/glossary/term.JIHAD.html>.

jilbab

A long, robe-like garment worn by some Arab women to practice hijab, Islamic modesty. Also called an "abayah" or "chador." See also "hijab." For more information, go to the Web site of the *Detroit Free Press*, <http://www.freep.com/jobspage/arabs.htm>.

K K K K**kafiyeh**

A checked garment some Arab men wear on their head to show identity and pride in their culture. It is traditional, not religious.

For more information, go to the Web site of the *Detroit Free Press*, <http://www.freep.com/jobspage/arabs.htm>.

Kampuchea

Khmer Rouge name for Cambodia.

Khalistan

Name used by Sikh separatists and nationalists for a proposed independent country in what is now the Indian state of Punjab. Not all those who support the concept of Khalistan are militants or terrorists. The clamor in certain quarters for Khalistan peaked in the mid-1980s and has since quieted down.

Khmer

Alone, the Cambodian term refers to the language or the people. Synonymous with "Cambodian." Khmer should not be confused with the Khmer Rouge, which refers to dictator Pol Pot's guerrilla forces.

kibei (kee-bay)

Children born in the United States of Japanese immigrant parents who were sent to Japan for education and usually returned to the United States.

Korean American Coalition

The nation's most prominent Korean American bilingual civic and civil rights organization, based in Los Angeles.

Korean Federation

Sometimes also called Korean Association. Organization of Koreans outside Korea providing services for newcomers. There is usually a Korean Federation in each major U.S. city or region where a significant number of Koreans reside.

Korean, Korean American

Use Korean when referring to anyone of Korean ancestry, but Korean American when specifically referring to those of Korean ancestry who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents. See

also "hyphenated American."

Koreatown

Any one of several Korean American communities in the United States.

Kye (kyeh)

Rotating credit unions used by Korean Americans to help members finance small businesses, housing, education and other family needs.

Kyopo (kee-yo-poe)

Koreans living outside of Korea. Korean Americans are referred to as "che mi kyopo" (chay mee kee-yopoe).

L L L L

LGBT

Acronym for "lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender."

la Frontera

Spanish for the border between the United States and Mexico.

la migra

Spanish slang for Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) agents and the INS in general. Used by several Latino groups.

La Raza

Spanish word for race. La Raza refers to Latino people. Día de la Raza is observed on Oct. 12 (or Columbus Day) in the United States during Hispanic Heritage Month and is also celebrated throughout Latin America as an acknowledgement of the mixed European and indigenous heritage that resulted from the Europeans' arrival. La Raza refers to that mixed race. Día de la Raza translates to "Day of Our Race."

La Violencia

English translation is "the violence" and it refers to the Colombian civil war, which resulted in the deaths of more than 200,000 Colombians. La Violencia was exacerbated by the April 9, 1948 murder of charismatic Liberal Party leader Jorge Eliécer Gaitán, who championed the cause of urban and rural workers. La Violencia occurred between 1946 and 1966.

La Virgin de Guadalupe

In English, the term means "the Virgin of Guadalupe," referring to Christ's mother, Mary. Our Lady of Guadalupe is the patron saint of the Americas to Catholics and is celebrated across the hemisphere. For Latinos, she is the symbol of the marriage of European and Indian blood and beliefs. She has evolved as a political and cultural icon, particularly for those fighting for civil rights.

lame

Avoid. Offensive term when referring to a person. Some people with and without disabilities are offended when the term is used in colloquial English, such as "lame excuse."

Lao

A separate ethnic entity, apart from the Khmu and Hmong. It is also a language.

Laotians

Various ethnic groups including the Lao, Khmu, and Hmong.

Latino, Latina

Umbrella term referring to a person from anywhere in Latin America, as well as U.S. residents or citizens who identify themselves as having Latin American heritage. Some people

prefer "Hispanic." Others use the terms interchangeably or prefer a term indicating their national origin, i.e. Colombian, Cuban, Mexican American, etc. On the west coast, people tend to use "Latino;" in the northeast and southwest, more people use "Hispanic." Some people regard Hispanic as insulting because they consider it a term created by the U.S. government to lump together anyone of Latin American and Spanish origin. Best to ask individual preference. See also "Hispanic."

For more information, see NAHJ's Web site, http://www.nahj.org/resourceguide/chapter_1.html.

lesbian

Preferred term for female homosexuals. Some women prefer to be called "gay" rather than "lesbian." When possible, ask the subject what term she prefers. Note: "lesbian woman" is redundant.

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

A militant group in Sri Lanka that has been at war with the government since the early 1980s, seeking a homeland for the Tamil ethnic minority in the predominantly Buddhist and Sinhalese nation.

lifestyle

Avoid. An inaccurate term sometimes used to describe gays, lesbians and bisexuals. There is no gay lifestyle, just as there is no heterosexual lifestyle.

little brown brother

Avoid. A derogatory term used in reference to Filipinos.

little people

Refers to people of short stature. A person who is short stature founded

Little People of America. People within and outside the group criticize the name, which was a move away from the medical term "dwarf." See also "dwarf" and "midget."

Little Saigon

Any one of several Vietnamese communities in the United States.

Little Tokyo

A Japanese-American community near downtown Los Angeles. See "Nihonmachi" and "J-town."

loony

Avoid. Offensive term used to describe people with psychiatric disabilities.

lover

A gay, lesbian, bisexual or heterosexual person's sexual partner. "Partner" is generally acceptable. See also "gay relationships."

M M M M

MSM

Acronym for "men who have sex with men." Term used usually in communities of color to describe men who secretly have sex with other men while maintaining relationships with women. Not synonymous with "bisexual." See also "down low."

MTF

Acronym for "male to female." A transgender person who, at birth or by determination of parents or doctors, has a biological identity of male but a gender identity of female. Those who have undergone surgery are sometimes described as "post-op MTFs" (for post-operative). See also "gender identity" and "intersex."

Madrasi

A term used by many northern Indians to refer to all South Indians, who resent it. There are four South Indian states -- Kerala, Tamil Nadu (former Madras state), Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Each has its own language and culture. A Keralite, for example, is not a Madrasi. Even a "Madrasi" (Madras is the former name of Chennai, the capital of Tamil Nadu) may resent the word because it is used derogatorily by some people.

mail order brides

Foreign women who are selected as marriage partners by American males through catalogs.

Malayalam

Indian language spoken in Southern India.

Mandarin

The dialect of Chinese spoken in Beijing and the official language for China and Taiwan. The term refers to the spoken language. One speaks Mandarin but writes Chinese.

Manilatown

Any one of several Filipino-American communities in the United States.

manong (mah-nong), manang

Title of respect for older Filipino males, used preceding their names, as in "manong Carlos." For older Filipina women, the term is "manang."

maquiladora

Assembly factories, using low-cost foreign labor, located in the Caribbean, Central America and on the Mexican side of the Mexican-U.S. border.

Marathi

Indian language spoken in western India.

Marielitos

Refers to Cuban refugees who arrived in the massive migration in 1980 when Fidel Castro allowed thousands of Cubans to leave the island from the port of Mariel.

McCarran-Walter Act

Officially, the Immigration and Nationality Act. Passed in 1952, it allowed Japanese, Koreans, and other Pacific Islanders to become naturalized U.S. citizens.

mehndi

Refers to the traditional Indian and diaspora art of intricate hand and body decoration using dyes from the henna plant. Used mainly by brides during marriage ceremonies, it is now becoming popular as a decoration and temporary "tattoo." In recent years, mehndi has gained attention in the West as a result of its use by some entertainers.

meo, miao

Avoid. Racial slur. Derogatory term for Hmong (Mong or Mung).

Mestizo

Spanish terms used widely in Latin America and among some U.S. Latinos. It describes a person whose cultural roots are comprised of both Spanish and indigenous Latin American heritage. The indigenous groups -- the native people who lived in Latin America before the Spanish conquest -- continue to influence Latin America, for example, the Mayans of Mexico and Central America. Toltecs, Incas and Aztecs are examples of

Latin-American indigenous people.

Mexican, Mexican American

Use "Mexican" when referring to anyone of Mexican ancestry, and "Mexican American" when referring to U.S. permanent residents or citizens of Mexican ancestry. See also "hyphenated American."

mi guk saram

Korean for an American person, used most often to refer to white Americans. Not necessarily derogatory.

midget

Avoid. Derogatory term for people of short stature. See also "dwarf" and "little people."

mistizo, mistiza

Filipino terms for someone of mixed Pacific Islander and white parentage. It also may refer to someone of mixed Filipino and Spanish parentage. Use "mistizo" when referring to males; "mistiza" for females.

model minority

Avoid. A stereotypical term applied to Asian Americans in the misleading belief that they have achieved success in the United States. Such references ignore the large groups of Asians and Asian Americans who have failed to achieve success, or who suffer from poverty, unemployment, language barriers, drug abuse and other problems.

moron

Avoid. Derogatory term referring to a person of mild mental retardation.

Muhammad

According to *The Associated Press*,

recently changed style from Mohammad, the Muslim prophet.

Mumbai

India's largest city and commercial capital, formerly known as Bombay.

Muslims

A follower of the religion of Islam. Not all Arabs are Muslims; not all Muslims are Arabs. Not all Muslims in the United States are Arab, black, or African American.

mute

Describes a person who physically cannot speak.

N N N N

Native Alaskan

Person born in Alaska, who may be of non-Native origins. See also "Eskimo."

Native American

Synonymous with "American Indian." Sometimes preferred term for indigenous peoples of the western hemisphere. When possible, use national affiliation, such as Navajo, Hopi, Cherokee. To specify someone was born in the United States, but isn't Native American, use native-born. See also "American Indian" and "Indian, Indian American."

New World

Avoid. A Eurocentric term that implies no one was in the Americas before Europeans arrived.

niggardly

The word, of Scandinavian origin, means miserly or stingy. This homophone does not need to be banned in print; however, broadcasters should avoid the word on

air because it is too close in sound to the racial epithet.

nigger

Avoid. Racial slur. Derogatory term referring to African Americans. Slang term used within the African-American community but should be avoided unless in quotes. In quotes, some news media abbreviate with "n-word" while others spell it out.

Nihonmachi

Japanese for "Japantown." After the World War II internment of Japanese Americans, the areas of American cities called "Little Tokyo" or "Japantown," shrank considerably. See also "J-town."

nikkei

A person of Japanese ancestry.

nip, nippers

Avoid. Racial slur. Derogatory term for Japanese and Japanese Americans, derived from "Nippon," a Japanese word for Japan.

nisei (nee-say)

Second generation Japanese Americans, and the first generation born in the United States. Now mainly historical reference. See also "issei," "sansei" and "yonsei."

North America

Mexico is part of this continent, which is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean on the east, the Pacific Ocean on the west, the Arctic Ocean on the north and extends through Mexico's southernmost border.

nuts

Avoid. Derogatory term referring to someone with a psychiatric disability.

O O O O

Occident, Orient

Avoid. Use only in direct quotes or name of organization. See also "Oriental."

ohana

Hawaiian term referring to family.

Old World

Avoid. Confusing term that implies that Europe is the point of reference.

openly gay/lesbian

Preferred over "self-avowed," "self-admitted," "self-confessed," or "practicing" in instances where the sexual orientation of the individual is germane. Example: The openly gay legislator supported the measure guaranteeing civil rights to gays. Or: She is the first openly lesbian CEO in Silicon Valley.

Oriental

Avoid. Do not use to refer to people of Asian ancestry. Use "Asian" or "Asian American." Many Asian Americans liken "Oriental" to "negro." A vestige of British imperialism, the term, at minimum, is vague. In art, it may include countries such as China and Japan, but not Turkey. In rugs, it may mean India and China as well as Turkey. In food, it may mean China or Japan, but not India, Vietnam or the Philippines.

outing

Publicly revealing the sexual orientation of an individual who has chosen to keep that orientation private (from out of the closet). See also "coming out" and "closeted."

P P P P

Pacific Islander

U.S. Census term referring to one of eight groups -- Fijian, Guamanian, Hawaiian, Northern Mariana Islander, Palauan, Samoan, Tahitian, and Tongan.

Pacific Rim

The regions and nations touching the Pacific Ocean. It often refers to East Asia, the Pacific Islands, Australia, New Zealand and the west coast of the United States.

Pakhtoon (Pushto)

Pakistani language spoken in the northwest frontier province of Pakistan.

Paki

Avoid. Racial slur and a derogatory slang term for people of Pakistani origin. If using in a quote, treat the word with the same caution as "Jap." Used often in England as an epithet against South Asians in general. Some people mistakenly use it as a shorthand way of saying "Pakistani."

Pan Asian

Refers to policies or other activities resulting from cooperation among Asian nations or among Asian-American ethnic groups.

paraplegic

Some people with paraplegia refer to themselves as a "para." If so, use in quote. Otherwise, spell out.

partition

The partition of 1947 refers to the division of British India upon independence into India and Pakistan. The partition, one of the largest forced migrations in history, occurred on two

sides of British India -- in the western Punjab region, and in the eastern Bengal region – where Muslims represented a majority of the population. Ensuing violence resulted in the deaths of tens of thousands.

Pearl Harbor

U.S. military base in Hawaii bombed during World War II. Cries of "Remember Pearl Harbor," are still sometimes used to whip up anti-Japanese/Japanese American sentiment. References to Pearl Harbor should be used with extreme care because of the potential inflammatory effects upon an entire group.

Pilipino, Pilipina

See "Filipino/Filipina."

pink triangle

The symbol gay men were required to wear in Nazi-occupied Europe and concentration camps. Some were forced to wear black triangles. Starting in the late 1970s, the downward-pointing, equilateral, pink triangle was adopted as a symbol of gay pride. Lesbians sometimes also use a black triangle.

pinoy, pinay

A Filipino-American male. The term for women is "Pinay." Some Filipino Americans consider the term derogatory.

pow wow

Use only when referring to the title of a specific American Indian event. Avoid if referring to a general gathering because the term evokes stereotypical image of American Indians. Comes from the Narragansett word for shaman. It is a celebration and social gathering, honoring sacred

American Indian traditions through dancing, drumming, singing and the gathering of people. Pow wows may be held to honor an individual or for a special occasion. Most commonly, it is a social event.

pride (Day and/or march)

Short for gay/lesbian pride, this term is commonly used to indicate the celebrations commemorating the Stonewall Inn riots. See also "Stonewall."

Punjab

Both a state in north India and a province in eastern Pakistan. At partition, the British split Punjab, dividing it between the two neighbors. See also "partition."

For more information, see SAJA's Web site, <http://www.saja.org/stylebook.html>.

Punjabi

The primary language of Punjab and one of the main regional languages in India. A person from Punjab is referred to as a Punjabi.

Pushto

See "Pakhtoon."

PWA

A person with AIDS. Or AIDS patient, if the context is medical care. Avoid calling PWAs "innocent victims." It implies criminal guilt among some other PWAs.

Q Q Q Q

quadriplegia

Paralysis affecting all four limbs. Some people with quadriplegia refer to themselves as "quads." If so, use in

quotes. Otherwise, spell out.

queen

Originally a pejorative term for an effeminate gay man. Considered offensive when used as an epithet.

Queen Lilluokalani

The last reigning monarch of Hawaii, she was forced from her throne on Jan. 16, 1893, by U.S. businessmen backed by the military. The United States annexed the kingdom in 1898.

queer

Originally a pejorative term for gay, now being reclaimed by some gay men, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered persons as a self-affirming umbrella term. Still extremely offensive when used as an epithet.

Quisqueya

Arawak name for the island of Hispaniola occupied by the Dominican Republic and Haiti. Dominicans often refer to their homeland as Quisqueya and themselves as quisqueyas.

Quran

Holy book for Muslims. According to *The Associated Press*, recently changed style from Koran.

For more information, go to the Web site of the *Detroit Free Press*, <http://www.freep.com/jobspage/arabs.htm>.

R R R R

race

Leave a person's race out of the story unless it is necessary to tell the story. In racial conflicts, the identity of parties involved or quoted is

important. Example: In police brutality cases, if the race of a victim is relevant, so is the race of the officer(s) involved. Contrast: The race of someone charged with robbery is usually not needed.

racially diverse

A group of people from different parts of the world. Not synonymous with racially mixed.

racially mixed

A person whose ancestors came from different parts of the world. Not synonymous with racially diverse.

rag head

Avoid. Racial slur. A derogatory term against Sikhs, for their wearing of turbans.

rainbow flag

A flag of six equal horizontal stripes (red, orange, yellow, green, blue and violet) signifying the diversity of the lesbian and gay communities.

Raj

Term used to describe the centuries of British rule of India (and what would later be called Pakistan and Bangladesh).

Ramadan

Ninth month of the Muslim calendar where Muslims abstain from food, drink and sex from before sunrise until sundown. Considered a month of self-discipline and purification. See also "Eid al-Adha," "hajj," "Eid al-Fitr."

For more information, go to the Web site of the *Detroit Free Press*, <http://www.freep.com/jobspage/arabs.htm>.

refugee

A person admitted to the United States from abroad due to that

person's well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, or membership in a particular social group or political opinion. (From The John Marshall Law Manual For Community Developers And Social Workers, Chicago 1991).

Refugee Act of 1980

Enacted in response to the arrival of refugees from Southeast Asia, this act gave resettlement agencies \$560 for each refugee to help provide temporary housing, food, and other services during the refugee's first 90 days of resettlement in the United States. Refugees do not receive greater benefits than other welfare recipients, nor do they receive low-interest loans or grants to start businesses.

religious zealots

Avoid. Stereotypical term generally referring to Arabs.

reservation

Indian reservations are areas of land reserved by the U.S. government as permanent tribal homelands. The United States established its reservation policy for American Indians in 1787. Today there are 314 reservations, among the last large tracts of private lands. More than 60 percent of American Indians live away from reservations.

rupee

The monetary units of India and Pakistan. In India, a rupee is 100 paise; one paise equals 1/100th of a rupee. Rupee is abbreviated in the singular as "Re." (e.g., at a cost of Re. 1) and in the plural as "Rs." (e.g., Rs. 65 million).

S S S S

safe sex, safer sex, protected sex

Sexual practices that minimize the transmission of infectious bodily fluids.

Salat

Prayer five times a day. One of the Five Pillars of Islam. See also "Five Pillars of Islam."

For more information, go to the Web site of the *Detroit Free Press*, <http://www.freep.com/jobspage/arabs.htm>.

samurai

A Japanese warrior. The samurai ethic is overemphasized when describing the Japanese mentality, particularly when describing Japanese business styles in competition with the United States.

sandsucker

Avoid. Racial slur. Derogatory term for Arabs.

sansei (san-say)

Third-generation Japanese Americans who are children of the nisei. The term is mainly of historical interest. See also "issei," "nisei" and "yonsei."

Sanskrit

Language in which many ancient Indian texts are written.

sari, saree

Described in the western press as a dress worn by Hindu women, but Christians in India wear saris, too, as do many Bangladeshi women.

second parent adoption

Legal action giving same gender second parent legal rights over children. Not permitted in all states.

Seeing Eye dog (assistance animal, guide dog, service animal)
There is no uniform terminology. Animals, mostly dogs, provide services to a person with a disability, including but not limited to those who use wheelchairs, are blind, deaf, or those who have seizures. Note upper case. A trademark for a guide dog trained by Seeing Eye Inc. of Morristown, N.J.

seizure

Preferred term. Do not use "fit" to describe a seizure.

seroconversion

Scientifically observable alteration of blood or other bodily fluids from HIV-negative to HIV-positive. The verb is seroconvert.

seronegative

Synonymous with HIV-negative.

seropositive

Synonymous with HIV-positive. See also "HIV."

service animal (assistance animal, guide dog, Seeing Eye dog) There is no uniform terminology. Animals, mostly dogs, provide services to a person with a disability, including but not limited to those who use wheelchairs, are blind, deaf, or those who have seizures.

sexual orientation

Innate sexual attraction and self-identity. Preferred over "sexual preference."

sexual preference

Avoid. Implies a choice to not be heterosexual. Use "sexual orientation."

shehada

The statement that "There is no true god but God (Allah), and Muhammad is his profit." One of the Five Pillars of Islam. See also "Five Pillars of Islam." For more information, go to the Web site of the *Detroit Free Press*, <http://www.freep.com/jobspage/arabs.htm>.

short stature

Preferred term when describing person who has what medical terminology would describe as dwarfism. Do not use medical model terms when describing the experience of living with a disability. Some people prefer "short stature" to "little people." Best to ask individual preference. See also "dwarf," "little people," and "midget."

Sikh

Follower of Sikhism.

Sikhism

Monotheistic religion founded by Guru Nanak, c.1500 AD, as a reform offshoot of Hinduism (it has some elements of Hinduism and Islam). Majority of Sikhs live in the Indian state of Punjab, but they also make up a highly visible portion of South Asians in the diaspora. The religion requires men to always carry, among other things, a ceremonial dagger known as a "kripan." Worshipers gather in a temple called a gurdwara. Sikh men almost always have the name Singh (Punjabi for "lion") as their last or middle names. Women often use the name Kaur ("lioness"). A note on the last name Singh: Almost all Sikh men are Singhs, but not all Singhs are Sikhs. Singh is also a common Hindu last name in northern India.

Sindhi

The language spoken in Sindh, a province in what is now Pakistan. It is

spoken in India and the diaspora by immigrants from Sindh. A person from Sindh is known as a Sindhi.

slant, slant-eye

Avoid. Racial slur. The stereotypical caricature of Asians with narrow, slanted slit eyes, with no pupils showing, was first used by white cartoonists in the 1800s to whip up anti-Asian hysteria. The caricature also is used to demean Asians as a mindless horde.

sodomy

Collective term for various sexual acts deemed illegal in some states. Not synonymous with homosexuality or gay sex. The legal definition of sodomy is different from state to state and can apply to sexual acts practiced by heterosexuals.

South Asia

The Indian subcontinent as distinct from East and Southeast Asia. Includes Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

South Asian Diaspora

Because of the British colonial legacy and large-scale immigration, there are substantial pockets of people of South Asian origin scattered around the world. In some cases, such as in Fiji, Guyana, Mauritius, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago, South Asians make up at least 35 percent of the population. Other countries with large South Asian communities include Malaysia, Singapore, South Africa, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and the United States.

Southeast Asia

Preferred over Indochina. See also

"Indochinese."

sovereignty

Independence from external control. The question of status in relationship to the United States for current and former U.S. territorial possessions, such as Hawaii, Guam and Puerto Rico, and also Native American nations continues to be debated. Takes the form of plebiscites, political discussions and independence movements. In the case of American Indian nations, many assert their sovereignty based on having entered into treaties (international agreements) with the United States that Native American nations still recognize.

Spanglish

A hybrid of terms borrowing from Spanish and English to create new words or phrases. It also refers to the substitution of words from one of the languages to the other, such as, "I'm going to visit la familia for dinner."

Spanish (ethnicity)

People from Spain are Spanish, not Latino. People from Latin America are Latino, not Spanish. See also "Latino/Latina" and "Hispanic."

Spanish (language)

Spoken throughout Spain and in Latin-American countries colonized by the Spanish. Some Hispanics in the United States speak Spanish, but not all do. Also, Latin American indigenous people often speak their tribal language, not Spanish.

Spanish names

Usually include both the father's and mother's family names in that order. On second reference, use only the

father's name, unless a person specifies otherwise.

spastic

Avoid when describing a person with cerebral palsy or other disabilities. Muscles, not people, are spastic.

special

Avoid when describing a person with a disability or programs designed to serve them, with the exception of government references.

special rights

Avoid. Politically charged term used by opponents of civil rights for gay people. Use "gay civil rights," "equal rights" or "gay rights."

Spic

Avoid. Derogatory and offensive word referring to Latinos.

squaw

Avoid. Derogatory term that evokes stereotypical image of Native American women.

Stonewall

The Stonewall Inn tavern in New York City's Greenwich Village was the site of several nights of raucous protest following a police raid June 28, 1969. Although not the nation's first gay rights demonstration, Stonewall is regarded as the birth of the modern gay rights movement.

straight (noun, adj.)

A heterosexual; a non-gay person.

stricken with (afflicted with, suffers from, victim of)

Avoid. Use neutral language when describing a person who has a disability. Not every person with a

disability suffers, is victim of, or is stricken. Instead use "he has muscular dystrophy" or "she acquired a spinal cord injury."

stutter

Use "person who stutters," not "stutterer." Use as an adjective, not a noun.

Subcontinent, Indian

Also known as "the Subcontinent." See also "South Asia."

suffers from (afflicted with, stricken with, victim of)

Avoid. Use neutral language when describing a person who has a disability. Not every person with a disability suffers, is victim of, or is stricken. Instead use "he has muscular dystrophy" or "she acquired a spinal cord injury."

T T T T

Tagalog

The official language of the Philippines. Each province has its own language. There are eight major dialects and 84 other dialects.

Tamil (ethnicity)

Anyone whose mother tongue is Tamil. The country with the most prominent Tamil population outside of India is Sri Lanka.

Tamil (language)

Language spoken in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. Because of the large population of Tamil-speaking immigrants and their descendants, Tamil is an official language in Singapore and a major language in Malaysia and Mauritius.

Tejano/Tejana

Person of Mexican ancestry from Texas.

Telugu

Indian language spoken in Southern India.

temporarily able-bodied (TAB)

Refers to the notion that sooner or later everyone will acquire some kind of disability. This is not a uniformly accepted term.

Thai

Term used in reference to people from Thailand.

Third World

Avoid. Eurocentric term. When referring to locations outside industrialized regions, preferred term is "developing world" or "developing nation."

Toishanese

A Chinese dialect mainly spoken by the earliest immigrants. Toishanese is a subdialect of Cantonese. It is spoken in six counties in southern China.

Tongs

Any of a variety of Chinese organizations. Can also refer to a club, clan, or a large residence. Used in combination with other words, it can mean a church or a school. The term has come to be associated in America, however, with Chinese secret societies that engaged in illegal activities.

transgender

An umbrella term that can include preoperative, postoperative or nonoperative transsexuals, female and male crossdressers, drag queens or

kings, female or male impersonators and intersex individuals. If an individual prefers to be called transsexual, drag queen or king, intersex, etc., use that term.

transition

The process by which a person alters his/her gender. This may include surgery, hormone therapy and changes of legal identity.

transsexual

An individual who identifies him/herself as a member of the opposite gender and who, by surgery or hormone therapy, acquires the physical characteristics of the opposite gender. Individual can be of any sexual orientation. To determine accurate use of names or personal pronouns, use the name and gender of the individual at the time of the action.

transvestite

Avoid. See also "cross-dressing."

tribal warfare

Avoid. Eurocentric term for ethnic conflict among people of color. Example: The conflict between Hutus and Tutsis in Rwanda was called "tribal warfare," but the civil war in the former Yugoslavia between Serbs, Croats, and Muslims was "ethnic cleansing." Both are ethnic conflicts or civil wars.

tribe

Avoid. Use nation or ethnic group except for specific entities like a "tribal council" on a reservation. Within the United States, many Native Americans prefer "nation" because their people have signed treaties with the United States that recognize them as nations.

Some Native Americans prefer their national affiliation instead of using generic term Native American, e.g., Navajo, Hopi, Cherokee. In Africa, avoid referring to different ethnic groups as tribes. Hutu and Tutsi are ethnic groups, just like Serbs, Croats and Muslims in the former Yugoslavia. See also "American Indian" and "reservation."

Tsau

See "cho."

Twinkie

Avoid. Racial slur and derogatory term, like "banana," used by Asian Americans to describe other Asian Americans who identify more with whites. Banana usually refers to Asians who grew up in a white environment. Twinkie implies people who knowingly reject their Asian identity.

Tydings-McDuffie Act

Enacted in 1934, this act imposed an annual quota of 50 Filipino immigrants and granted deferred independence to the Philippines. The limit on immigration was not repealed until 1946.

U U U U

undocumented immigrant

Preferred over "illegal immigrant." A term used to describe the immigration status of people who do not have federal documentation showing they are legally entitled to work, visit or live in the United States. People who are undocumented by the Immigration and Nationalization Service (INS) do not have the proper visas to be in the United States legally. See also "illegal immigrant" and "alien."

Urdu

One of the official languages of Pakistan, also spoken in many parts of India, especially in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

uses a wheelchair

People use wheelchairs for independent mobility. Do not use "confined to a wheelchair," "wheelchair-bound," "wheelchair-rider" and "vertically challenged." Use "person who uses a wheelchair" or "wheelchair-user." See also "wheelchair."

V V V V

vegetable, vegetative state

Avoid when referring to people.

victim, victim of (afflicted with, stricken with, suffers from)

Avoid. Use neutral language when describing a person who has a disability. Not every person with a disability suffers, is victim of, or is stricken. Instead use: "He has muscular dystrophy" or "she acquired a spinal cord injury."

W W W W

Walter-McCarran Act

Officially known as the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952, it allowed Asians to apply for citizenship but set immigration quotas from each Asian country at only 100 annually. Liberalization of this law, in 1965, allowed the first large-scale migration of Asians into the United States in the 20th century. See also "Asian Exclusion Acts."

wampum

Avoid. Evokes stereotypical image of

Native Americans.

warpath

Avoid. Evokes stereotypical image of Native Americans.

wetback/mojado

Avoid. Derogatory term referring to individuals of Mexican descent and is derived from the crossing of the Río Bravo/Río Grande into the United States.

wheelchair

Unless mentioning the wheelchair is essential to the story, leave it out. Do not use "confined to a wheelchair," "wheelchair-bound," "wheelchair-rider" or "vertically challenged." Use "person who uses a wheelchair" or "wheelchair-user." People use wheelchairs for independent mobility. The definition of confined is relative, and for someone who needs to use a wheelchair, it can be a source of freedom and independence.

wheelchair-bound

Avoid. A person is not bound to a wheelchair; a wheelchair enables a person to be mobile. Use "wheelchair-user" or "uses a wheelchair." See also "wheelchair."

Wong, Suzy

Cinematic Chinese prostitute whose image reinforced the stereotype of Asian women as exotic playthings for white males. References to Suzy Wong in describing Asian women should be avoided except in direct quotes and specific historical references.

Y Y Y Y

yellow peril

Avoid. Derogatory term used to

describe Asians as a great threat to Western civilization. The term gained appeal in the 1880s, and was used by some newspapers and politicians to whip up racism against Asian immigrants, specifically Japanese, who had become successful entrepreneurs in California agriculture and were portrayed as taking jobs from whites or were poised to invade the United States.

yonsei (yon-say)

Fourth-generation Japanese Americans who are children of the sansei. The term is mainly of historical interest. See also "issei," "nisei" and "sansei."

Z Z Z Z

zakat

The sharing of alms with the poor. One of the Five Pillars of Islam. See "Five Pillars of Islam."

Zapatistas

Indigenous group in the southern Mexican state of Chiapas warring with the Mexican federal government over land ownership and Indian rights. The indigenous people say their ancestors were the original landowners in Chiapas. Thus they say they are reclaiming their land. They call themselves Zapatistas in honor of Mexican revolutionary Emiliano Zapata who during the 1910 Mexican revolution called for federal land-reform laws. Subcomandante Marcos, while not indigenous himself, is a Zapatista leader.

