

*Impressionistic Understanding*

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This is put a tad more harshly than I would normally do, but the point is valid. As a tutor, I have learned that one HUGE impediment to academic excellence is a limited vocabulary. The students can't give a definition without using the word, "Like." Students seldom understand the meaning of words. They only have an "impression" of what a word might mean: An impression gained from context rather than a dictionary.

Similarly, A friend of mine, in his writing, exposes the fact that many Americans have an "impression" of how our government is structured, yet few can actually define it. The result? We are headed towards a nation where we have something 'like' freedom; something 'like' equality; something 'like' representation; something 'like' social order; something 'like' shared principles.

Don't believe me? Try it. Ask your child or grandchild to define a word, any word you want, and see what they say.