

### 3. Word that is (or should be) in the news: Prejudice

Denotation (literal dictionary definition):

Merriam-Webster defines the word “prejudice” as a “preconceived judgment or opinion.”

“prejudice” comes from the root word “to judge” and the prefix “pre” meaning “before.”

Synonyms:

bias, preconception, prejudgment, bigotry, chauvinism, discrimination, intolerance, *consequence*

Negation/ Antonyms:

fairness, impartiality, tolerance, objective consideration

Connotations (associated meanings):

racism, racial profiling, Stop and Frisk, *Pride and Prejudice*

Class (put the word in a larger context) and/or Distinguishing Facts or Details:

*opinion, unfounded judgment*

Anecdote/ Example:

My friend who was profiled on the subway

Description/ Associated Imagery (vivid, sensory details):

rushing to class, long and intricately wrapped headscarf, bright gifts with carefully tied bows, chocolates

Recently, on her way to the airport, my friend Mina experienced prejudice. When she was entering the subway station, she was waved over to a table on the side and the police searched her and examined each item in her suitcase. They took out her brand new computer and turned it on to check each drive. They tore open all of the carefully wrapped presents she was taking back to her family in Iran and even punctured some of the expensive chocolate candies she had bought for her uncle. They took out everything from her meticulously packed suitcase and watched while she repacked each item. Worst of all, they made her remove her intricately wrapped headscarf in front of all the passersby. What they did not know was that Mina is an American and a patriot of the most loyal type. They were prejudging her based on appearances. According to Merriam-Webster, the “prejudice” is a “preconceived judgment or opinion.” Prejudice can come in the form of racism, ageism, bigotry, chauvinism, or any other type of discrimination. The word “prejudice” comes from the root word “to judge” and the prefix “pre” meaning “before.” In other words, a person who prejudges another person only sees that person as an example of a type, not as an individual.

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