

Topic 12:

Press intrusion.

Identifying similar words with different connotations



What is press intrusion?

Press intrusion is an issue which has many stances, often depending on whether you are a member of the **press** or have been on the receiving end of such **intrusion**. Members of the **press** will usually argue that there is a public interest need behind anything which looks too intrusive



What is an example of intrusion?

The definition of an **intrusion** is an unwelcome interruption or a situation where someone private has an unwelcome visit or addition. When you are having a quiet nap in your backyard and your neighbor's dog comes in uninvited and jumps all over you to wake you up, this is an **example** of an **intrusion**





Identifying similar words with different connotations

To fully understand a word and use it correctly, you need to know both its denotation and its connotation. If you aren't fully aware of a word's connotation, you may choose an inappropriate **synonym** in your writing, which can lead to confusion or even to your reader taking offense



For example, consider the words "group," "clique" and "club." All three have basically the same denotative meaning: a set of more than one person. Each of these words has a different connotative meaning, however.



"Group" has a neutral connotation, because it simply describes a number of people. It does not inspire either positive or negative feelings



"Clique," also means a group of people, but it carries a negative connotation. This is because "clique" is typically used in circumstances where the group is known for excluding others. This word should be used carefully: If you want to be thought of as a welcoming group, the negative connotation of this word will turn people off



Likewise, "club" also refers to a group of people, but this word has a more positive connotation because a club is a collection of people that voluntarily come together for a shared passion or purpose.



As you can see, it's important to understand the connotation as well as the denotation of a word before you use it. Otherwise, you run the risk of picking a word out of a thesaurus that is out of place and doesn't help get your full idea across.

