

PROBLEMATIC TERMS TO RECONSIDER

TERM	CONCERNS	ALTERNATIVES
"Illegal immigrant"	This term ignores the complexities of immigration status and has been widely rejected by news organizations over the last several years.	Undocumented immigrant, Immigrant without current status
"Aggravated felon"	"Aggravated felony" is a complicated "term of art" introduced by harsh immigration laws. The term has little connection with its colloquial meaning and includes a vast range of conduct.	Formerly incarcerated immigrant, Person with a criminal record, or, Person convicted/ charged with a crime considered an 'aggravated felony' under immigration law
"Deported felon"	"Felon" is a charged term that focuses on one narrow aspect of a person's identity and tells readers nothing about the circumstances of the individual's life. It is worth noting that anti-immigrant organizations have for several decades sought to use this term to build a narrative which criminalizes immigrants.	Deported person, Person who was deported after completing a sentence
"Felon committing illegal entry or reentry"	The 1929 law creates a vicious cycle where people are separated from their families, deported, and when they seek to return home, they are convicted of misdemeanors and felonies. Systematically labeling immigrants as "criminals" and "felons," through language and law, has been a tactic used by white supremacists going back to the one who originally sponsored this law nearly a century ago.	Person seeking to return to the U.S.
"Criminal alien"	"Alien" is an offensive term; and together, these two words risk sensationalizing the issue.	Formerly incarcerated immigrant, Person with a criminal record