Virginia Ratification Speeches Vocabulary—High School Version

Abominable-
Repugnantly hateful; detestable; loathsome.

Accede-
To give consent, approval, or adherence; agree; assent.

Agency-
A means of exerting power or influence; instrumentality.

Annihilate-
To reduce to utter ruin or nonexistence; destroy utterly.

Anti-Federalists-
Members or supporters of the Anti-Federalist Party, which opposed the ratification of the Constitution.

Compact-
A formal agreement between two or more parties, states, etc.; contract

Confederation-
A group of confederates, esp. of states more or less permanently united for common purposes.
The union of the 13 original U.S. states under the Articles of Confederation, 1781–1789.

Constituent-
A person who authorizes another to act in his or her behalf, as a voter in a district represented by an elected official.

Detestation-
Abhorrence; hatred.

Dissent-
To differ in sentiment or opinion, esp. from the majority; withhold assent; disagree.

Dissolution-
The undoing or breaking of a bond, tie, union, partnership, etc.

Emancipation-
The act of freeing (a slave) from bondage.

Encroachment-
The act of advancing beyond proper, established, or usual limits; making gradual inroads.

Extravagant-
Exceeding the bounds of reason, as actions, demands, opinions, or passions.

Federalists-
Members or supporters of the Federalist Party, which supported the ratification of the Constitution.

Infringement-
A breach or infraction, as of a law, right, or obligation; violation; transgression.

Impartial-
Not partial or biased; fair; just.

Jurisdiction-
The right, power, or authority to administer justice by hearing and determining controversies.

Manumission-
The act of freeing (a slave) from bondage.

Perpetually-
Continuing or enduring forever; everlasting.

Preamble-
An introductory statement; preface; introduction.
The introductory statement of the U.S. Constitution, setting forth the general principles of American government and beginning with the words, "We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union …"

Procure-
To obtain or get by care, effort, or the use of special means.

Propriety-
Conformity to established standards of good or proper behavior or manners.

Provision-
A clause in a legal instrument, a law, etc., providing for a particular matter; stipulation; proviso.

Ratify-
To approve and give formal sanction to; confirm.

Relinquish-
To renounce or surrender (a possession, right, etc.).

Schism-

Division or disunion, especially into mutually opposed parties.

Shun-

To keep away from (a place, person, object, etc.), from motives of dislike, caution, etc.; take pains to avoid.

Sovereignty-

The quality or state of being sovereign (self-governing; independent).

Tranquility-

Quality or state of being tranquil; calmness; peacefulness; quiet; serenity.

Unalienable-

Not to be separated, given away, or taken away; inalienable.