

## Activity 11: Denotation vs. Connotation

Instructions: Denotation is the literal meaning of a word, often found in the dictionary. Connotation refers to the emotions attached to a word or expression. For example, the denotative meaning of the word “active” is “characterized by energetic work and participation.” However, when a teacher refers to a child as “active,” there is a somewhat negative connotation, suggesting that s/he is hyper and doesn’t pay attention. Figure the connotation, or implied meaning for each of the words below. Indicate whether or not the word has a positive or negative connotation.

<b>Vocabulary Word</b>	<b>Denotation</b>	<b>Connotation</b>
network	a set or system of connections; also, a verb meaning to communicate with and within a group	
draconian	unusually severe or cruel	
vital	necessary to the existence or well-being of something; essential	
motivated	stimulated by an interested in or enthusiasm for doing something	
snowballed	past tense of “to grow larger very quickly”	