**Loaded Words: Using Denotation and Connotation**

Directions: Read each list of words below. Each word has a different connotation, but has the same general denotation. Decide what the general denotation is for each group. Write your answer on the line provided. Then, number the words in each group from most positive connotation to most negative connotation.

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| **Example:**  3. thin 4. bony 1. slim 5. anorexic 2. slender  \_\_\_\_thin\_\_\_\_ (general denotation) | \_\_\_ imprison \_\_\_ relocate \_\_\_ incarcerate \_\_\_ intern \_\_\_ evacuate \_\_\_ detain \_\_\_ lock-up \_\_\_ confine  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (general denotation) |
| \_\_\_ uprising \_\_\_ riot \_\_\_ demonstration \_\_\_ unlawful gathering  \_\_\_ protest  \_\_\_ disturbance  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (general denotation) | \_\_\_ prisoner \_\_\_ evacuee \_\_\_ internee \_\_\_ detainee \_\_\_ inmate  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (general denotation) |
| \_\_\_ guerilla \_\_\_ freedom fighter \_\_\_ mercenary \_\_\_ soldier \_\_\_ terrorist  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (general denotation) | internment camps detention camps assembly centers concentration camps prison camps relocation centers temporary detention centers  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (general denotation) |

Write one or two "loaded words" of your own:

Why is the term "concentration camps" so controversial? How did the meaning of this term change after World War II? Can you think of any words that have changed connotative meaning due to history?