Vocabulary #5

On a separate sheet of paper, respond in paragraphs underlining the vocabulary word in your answer.

1. exacerbate

* (verb) to make worse
* If you are in trouble, complaining about it will only exacerbate the problem.
* A drought will exacerbate a country's food shortage.
* Many people who are uninsured go untreated, exacerbating their medical issues.
* Describe a problem you have had and a decision that you made that, unfortunately, exacerbated the situation.

1. ululation

* (noun) a long, loud cry, howl or wailing sound. In many cultures, *ululation* is common at a funeral, while in others, mourners express their grief quietly. Ululation is also found in music. In some cases, ululation can be joyful rather than sad. In Arab countries, ululation is commonly used to express celebration, especially at [weddings](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wedding).
* Tarzan’s famous ululation, “Aahh-e-aahhh,” could supposedly summon animals from the jungle.
* Describe a real or fictional situation when you might ululate.

1. sequester

* (verb) to remove or set apart; to put into isolation. Most people associate this word with juries that are sequestered during a trial.
* At the airport, customs officials sequester illegal animal products entering the country.
* The rich often sequester themselves in gated neighborhoods.
* Children are often sequestered in their room during time-outs.
* Describe a time when you experienced being sequestered someplace you did not want to be.

1. conundrum

* (noun) a puzzle or problem. The word conundrum is used to describe a riddle or puzzle, sometimes including a play on words or pun.
* One of the most famous *conundrums* is the riddle of the Sphinx in the play *Oedipus the King* by Sophocles. Oedipus encounters the Sphinx, a mythical beast, who asks him, "What walks on four legs in the morning, two in the afternoon, and three in the evening?" The answer is "A person: crawling as a child, walking as an adult, and using a cane in old age.” The scary thing is that if the Sphinx asked you the riddle and you didn't know, she'd eat you!
* People encounter conundrums daily when it comes to problems they must solve at work, school or in their personal lives. Describe a conundrum you have struggled with for some time and how you have handled it.

1. ubiquitous

* (adj.) existing everywhere, widespread. Pronunciation Tip: yoo-BIK-wih-this
* Technology like cell phones and free Wi-Fi is ubiquitous in most parts of the US.
* Ironically, the *ubiquitous*  is not as ubiquitous as the word *pervasive* which is for more common, except on SATs where you will see both. The words are synonymous.
* Besides technology, what other types of things are ubiquitous?