Jan. 6 Key Terms

**Congressional Committee**
A small number of representatives from the House of Representatives or the Senate grouped by similar areas of expertise. Committees draft most initial bills and conduct congressional investigations like the Jan. 6 investigation.

**Select Committee**
A temporary committee created for a specific, one-time purpose.

**Coup**
When another party seizes government control through violent and illegal means. Many describe the attempt to stop the certification of electoral votes on Jan. 6 as a coup. Synonym: Insurrection.

**Hearings**
Public presentations held by congressional committees to show opinions and facts about a given issue. Hearings often involve experts or witnesses speaking and representatives listening.

**Electoral college**
The system to elect the president of the United States, where each state has a number of electors equal to its number of representatives in Congress. Every elector votes for the candidate who won the most votes in their state.
Certification
The final step in the election process when Congress counts and certifies the electoral vote tally.

Justice Department (DOJ)
Department in executive branch that enforces laws and prosecutes people who break federal law. The head of the department is known as the Attorney General.

Subpeona
A legal order, usually issued by a court, demanding that someone appear in court or provide information needed for a legal proceeding.

Conspiracy
A plan created in secret by a group to do something illegal or harmful. Jan. 6 Committee Chair Liz Cheney has repeatedly called the actions of Trump and his allies a conspiracy, a charge Trump’s lawyers would strongly deny.

Militia Groups
Small, armed groups of people who train like soldiers and carry firearms but have no connection to the official military. Most modern militia groups, like the Proud Boys and Oath Keepers featured in the Jan. 6 proceedings, advocate far-right political positions.