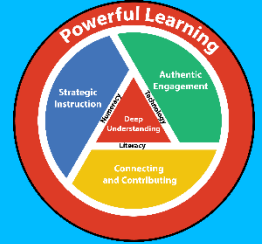




Instructional Tools: **ACADEMIC VOCABULARY**



WHAT IS IT?

There are two types of academic vocabulary:

1. **Specific content** is the terminology used in specific subjects related to the discipline it falls into (eg. Math - equation, sum, angle, measurement, etc.)
2. **General** academic vocabulary is the cement that builds the bricks of specific content.

Academic vocabulary is spread across all of the subjects as basic terms used to understand the content on a deeper level.

Examples: analyze, connect, evidence, organize, in addition, summary, achieve, require, etc.

WHY USE THIS STRATEGY?

- Academic language is crucial to be able to access professions, and it will **set students up for success** in their future careers
- When students know the meaning behind basic terms they are able to **better understand information** that they are presented with
- Focusing on academic vocabulary works on closing the gap between those who are from academic environments and non-academic environments.
- Students who have direct vocabulary instructions on words related to content have a **high level of comprehension** of content

HOW TO USE IT:

- **Be explicit.** Use the correct term, not just the kid friendly version.
- **Take the time.** For specific content vocabulary, take time beforehand to introduce, time during for kids to make connections and consolidate learning, and time at the end of content learning to review. For general academic vocabulary, take the time to define, practice and review those skills all year!
- Teacher instruction, student investigation, group work, conversation as a class and between students are all useful for vocabulary learning.
- Visual, verbal, kinesthetic activities complement print based vocabulary learning.

See it in action:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p9DPKqBrJQE>

Teacher Neil Hicken uses Marzano's Six Step Process to teach tier two vocabulary to his middle school students as part of his weekly teaching practice.

RESOURCES & LINKS

Learning Commons

- [Academic Vocabulary Resources & Word lists](#) (by grade)

IMC

- Building Academic Vocabulary: Teachers Manual by R. Marzano and D. Pickering. TR2410
- Vocabulary Games for the Classroom by L. Carleton and R. Marzano TR2404
- 101 Strategies to Make Academic Vocabulary Stick by M. Sprenger
- The Vocabulary Enriched Classroom by Block and Mangieri (grades 3+) TR1872/1
- Stretching Students' Vocabulary by. K. Bromley (grades 3-8) TR1395/1
- Vocabulary: Activities to Challenge All Learners TR1126/1
- Quick Activities to Build a Very Voluminous Vocabulary by L. Nickelsen (grade 4-8) TR1389/1
- Vocabulary and Word Study Games by L. Hopping Egan (grades 4-8) TR1130/1
- Vocabulary Their Way: Theory 2nd Ed. by S. Templeton et. al. (secondary grades) TR2467
- Vocabulary Their Way: Practice by S. Templeton, et. al. (secondary grades) TR0090

Websites: (some with templates):

- <https://www.graniteschools.org/mathvocabulary/vocabulary-cards/>
- <http://learningtasks.weebly.com/vocabulary-strategies.html>
- [Strategies for Teaching Vocabulary in Kindergarten By Sharon Taylor](#)
- [Building Vocabulary Through Fun and Games](#)
- <https://visuwords.com/>
- Video: [Building Academic Vocabulary](#)