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Expect Extraordinary

EE20 Literacy Centers: Start a Literacy Explosion!
(Gr. 6-12)
Katie McKnight, Ph.D.

Together let's create extraordinary classrooms.

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EDUCATORS

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We believe educators have the most important job in the world.

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What We Will Do In This Session

Examine different strategies for developing content literacy skills in 6th-12th grade.


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What is Content Literacy?

Generally defined as

“the ability to use reading and writing for the acquisition of new content in a given discipline”

(McKenna & Robinson, 1990, p. 184)




Assumptions Underlying Content Literacy

Subject Matter

Role of the Textbook

Active Readers

Independent Readers



Where is Content Information Stored?

Reference books

Textbooks


Primary Sources

Charts

Web Pages

Images

Formulas




Read a Wide Variety of Texts

Students must read in every class.


Provide students with varied and engaging texts.

Use strategies that support struggling readers.

Your classroom and school must provide abundant access of engaging and diverse reading materials.



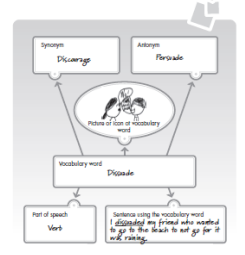
Academic Vocabulary



Vocabulary Slide Sample 1


Name _____
Date _____

VOCABULARY SLIDE



Part of speech: Verb

Sentence using the vocabulary word: I dissuaded my friend who wanted to go to the beach to not go for a week's vacation.



Name _____
Date _____

CONCEPT OR VOCABULARY MAP

Important characteristics

- Easy to set on fire
- Ignite

Writing or spoken characteristics

- Used to set on fire
- Drive
- Car's engine

Concept or vocabulary word
Flammable

Examples

- Gas
- Gasoline
- Oil
- Gas station
- Gasoline
- Engine

Contexts

- Car
- Gasoline
- Gas station
- Engine

Vocabulary Slide Sample 2

Name _____
Date _____

CONCEPT OR VOCABULARY MAP II

What is it?
An enclosed figure with all straight sides.

Which 2-D?

- All straight sides
- Enclosed
- 2-D

Which 3-D?

- Circles
- Ovals
- 3-D figures

Examples

Triangle

Square

Rectangle

Vocabulary Slide Sample 3

Name _____
Date _____

CONCEPT OR VOCABULARY MAP III

What is it?

Definition:
Insect with segmented bodies, antennae, and 6 or more legs.

Word or concept: **in-the-equator**


Examples

- Like an ant
- Butter fly
- Geometridae

Nonexamples

- Human
- Man
- Chick

Illustration



Vocabulary Slide Sample 4

Vocabulary Slide Sample 5

Name _____
Date _____

CONCEPT OR VOCABULARY MAP IV

What is it?

Definition
"I'm wanting to spend money"

Word or concept
Thrift

Examples

Nonexamples

Franchise Savings	Park Hotel
A banker	A wealthy person
A person without much money	A movie star

I can find this word...
in a dictionary. Cited by Charles Frutkin.

This word reminds me of...
my dad

Word Detective

Name _____
Date _____

Definition
"I'm wanting to spend money"


Context clue #1
"I'm wanting to spend money"

Context clue #2
They are talking about the bank and the bank is not a place where you can spend money.

Context clue #3
To solve a crime you need to put together the puzzle pieces.

Definition
Involving only the most simple and basic facts.

Picture or Situation



WORD DETECTIVE








Set a topic where the word was originally used.
"I'm wanting to spend money"

Part of speech
Adjective

Synonym
The way to solve a crime is to use elementary knowledge.

SIX COLUMN VOCABULARY ORGANIZER

Name _____
Date _____
Book Title: Midnight Sun

Vocabulary word	Sentence showing context	Part of speech	Synonym	Antonym	Picture or line that represents the word
Mysterious	Exciting activity	Adjective	Striking	Exciting	
Occasionally	All times	Adverb	Sometimes	Never	
Inconceivable	Without logic or meaning	Adjective	Digested	Palatial	
Unconscionable	Unaware	Adjective	Asleep	Awake	
Uncomfortable	To lack comfort	Adjective	Answered	Color	
Best	"I" break open	Noun	To replace	Available	
Formidable	Very painful	Adjective	Unbearable	Color	

Cyber Vocabulary Detective

CYBER VOCABULARY DETECTIVE

Name: _____
Date: _____

DIRECTIONS: As you look for your vocabulary words in the assigned website, it's helpful to use the PIG acronym. For each of the assigned vocabulary words, write the sentence from the website where you find the word. Circle what the word might mean.

Vocabulary word	Sentence that includes vocabulary word	What might the vocabulary word mean?
Confederates	The algebra confederates worked together for 50 years in what was the war.	All types of candy
Capita	American cinema 27% of world's capita movie.	A prominent part
Melodrama	Melodrama perfectly with the average conception of 18th...	Melodrama
Disciplinary	The global economic downturn may have caused many companies to cut disciplinary spending .	You can do what you want with it
Flawless	Some insects can graciously avoid...	To please through
Function	Function happens when the brain neural function .	When there is no growth in the morning
Strenuous	In our school there are very few strenuous .	Fights


Developing Students' Skills in Argumentation and Writing

Develop Study Skills

Note Taking

ABC Brainstorm:
Select a topic and/or a vocabulary term and then summarize what they know.

2-3 Column Notes:
Cornell Notes is probably the most used and well known.




Name _____ Date _____

ABC BRAINSTORM

Topic: _____

A	N
B	O
C	P
D	Q
E	R
F	S
G	T
H	U
I	V
K	X
L	Y
M	Z
W	
	S

As students brainstorm information, the ABC framework helps them organize their thoughts. Because a fact or point of information must be recorded for each letter of the alphabet, the students must dig more deeply to retrieve information for this kind of brainstorm.




Cornell Notes

Topic: Macbeth, Act IV, scene iii

Main Idea(s)	Details/Important Lines
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Macduff, Ross, and Malcolm are talking. Macduff has a bigger reason to kill Macbeth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doctor informs about a disease called "evil". King of England can heal. Ross tells the bad state of Scotland. Ross lies to Macduff about Janina. Ross tells Macduff about his royal family. Malcolm says "Man up."

Look back at lines 345-359 about address and King Edward healing the sick. What does this story have to do with the play? Hint: Think metaphor.
It is relevant because it is saying how Edward had a good king and technically meaning Macbeth because he is only worsening his country.

Sample from Macbeth



$f(x) = (x-4)(x+3)(x-1)^2$
 $g(x) = \frac{1}{x^2}$

- Plug in numbers in the calculator and in function
 - look for x and y intercepts
 - graph them on my graph - parenthesis
 - its continuous doesn't stop
 - it has two points as like intervals
 - with graph, find points - I summed for two curves minimums
 - this is a calculator - paper
 - find the derivative of
 - with the points, I'd
 - and see if there's
 a correction
 - this graphs are
 close to the x
 but they meet
 really touch the x
 axis directly
 - I should at least get
 two curves

Summary
 the function of the first graph needs to have
 two minimums and it had to be continuous.
 For the second function, I knew it will have
 a vertical asymptote and two curves are going
 to be shown formed.
 have to remember to write the parenthesis
 & get the right answers.

Sample from Mathematics: Graphing

What are Learning Centers?

- Synonymous with *Learning Stations*.
- Learning Stations are locations that a teacher designs for students to work in small groups or individually.
- Each center has a clearly articulated learning activity.

Getting Started: A Checklist

- 1** Write out all directions for the students for each station.
- 2** Explain procedures and have them written out and posted in your classroom.
- 3** Create a "make up station" at the end of the rotation so that students can complete any unfinished work. Review and revision are key in the development of literacy skills sets.

Getting Started: A Checklist (cont.)

4 The teacher should circulate among the groups to facilitate answers and questions about the work.

5 Formal assessment occurs when the students have finished the novel.

6 When possible, give students a choice at each station.

I like to make a poster for each station.
Let's look at a model for learning centers.

A Classroom Picture
Sample Stations for First Rotation

Vocabulary Activity Reading Strategy Content Study

Practice With Content Listening or Viewing Center Make Up Center

Sample Learning Centers

Directions: *Circulate around the room to the different learning stations.*

Consider the following questions:

1 How can you use this learning center activity for your content area and classroom?

2 As you consider your content area and a specific learning center, what adaptations and suggestions do you have for the activity?

Note: These learning centers focus on vocabulary. When you create center activities for your students, you will have a variety of activities, not just vocabulary.

Differentiating Texts

- Selecting and adapting texts to differentiate information to meet the needs of diverse readers.
- Making students better readers in your subject area.
- Using efficient and engaging activities that add to content learning.

Strategies: One-Page Wonder

According to Daniels and Steineke, One-Page Wonders (OPW) allows us to:


- Provide texts that are interesting
- Keep in-class reading time short
- Allow for efficient practice of comprehension and discussion strategies

Finding OPWs

- Interesting and relevant to kids
- Surprising, puzzling, funny, quirky, or weird
- Invite the reader to visualize places, faces, and events
- Feature people you can get interested in
- Are complex enough to justify time and thought
- Offer background knowledge in your content area
- Contain open-ended or debatable issues that invite lively discussion


Schema and Comprehension

Activating prior knowledge with pre-reading guides
Anticipation guides
Problem-solving activities
Vocabulary Exercises



Hints for Struggling Readers

- Provide readers who struggle to decode with opportunities to hear the text read aloud (tape assist)
- Give readers for whom word recognition is a problem supplemental materials that include visual clues to word meaning (or use manipulatives in math)
- Allot additional time for readers who struggle to complete assignments
- Encourage struggling readers to use the internet because often the symbols and icons that are quite bothersome to good readers provide a means for struggling readers to construct meaning



More Resources

www.readingquest.org
www.adlit.org
www.readwritethink.org

