



Smarter Balanced  
Construct Relevant Vocabulary for  
English Language Arts and Literacy

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## Construct Relevant Vocabulary for English Language Arts: Introduction

“Construct relevant vocabulary” refers to any English language arts term that students should know because it is essential to the construct of English language arts. As such, these terms should be part of instruction.

These are words that may appear in assessment stems or options on the ELA Smarter Balanced Assessment even though the EDL might identify these terms as above grade level for general use. Because these terms are part of instruction in the ELA classroom they are considered construct relevant and thus allowable for this use.

The following list of “construct relevant vocabulary” was compiled by the Smarter Balanced ELA Team Leads. This list

- is **not** intended to be a default vocabulary curriculum; instead, the list of terms is intended as an instructional resource to ensure that teachers remember to embed these terms into their instruction.
- includes words that will not be glossed.
- is a working document. It is neither “finished” nor is it all-inclusive.

Note: Some words are not repeated in subsequent grades because it is assumed students are familiar with them because they have been part of ELA instruction in previous grades.

## Grade 6

accurate/inaccurate information	flashback	resolve/resolution
affix	focus	revise
analysis	global notes	root word
antonym	grammar usage	sensory language/details
appropriate information	heading	sequence of events
argument	imaginary	setting
argumentative article/text/ essay	inclusion	skim
audience (as in writer's audience)	infer/inference(s)/	source(s)
author's intent	inference(s) made	stanza
author's message	integrate information/ideas	style
author's point of view	interaction	summarize
blog	interpretation	support
capitalization	introduction	synonym
central idea	justify	text structures
character's action/	key detail	(compare/contrast; cause effect;
characters' relationship/	key event	problem/solution; pro/con)
characters' interaction	logical progression of ideas	theme
claim	logical sequence of events	thesis/controlling idea
closure	mental picture (writing)	title
compare/contrast	multi-paragraph	tone
comparison	multiple meanings	topic
conclude/conclusion	narrative/narrative writing	transitions/transition words/
conclusion drawn	narrator	phrases
concrete/specific/	observation	trustworthy source(s)
realistic details	opinion	visualize
conflict/tension	organize/organization	website
connections/relationships	paraphrase/paraphrasing	
between ideas (transitions in	phrase	
writing)	plagiarism/plagiarize/	
contradict	plagiarizing	
controlling idea/thesis	plot	
conventions	point of view/viewpoint	
credible sources	pre-write	
describe/description	precise/specific language	
develop ideas (evidence/	presentation	
elaboration)	punctuation/punctuated	
dialogue	purpose (e.g., author's or	
draft	speaker's purpose)	
edit	purpose for writing (explanatory,	
editorial	argumentative, narrative writing)	
effective beginnings/endings	quotation/quoting	
elaborate/elaboration of ideas	reference/identify sources	
essay	relationship	
establish a claim	relevant	
evidence	relevant supporting evidence/	
example	reasons/details/information	
excerpt	represent	
explanatory article/text/	research	
essay/writing	research question	

## Grade 7

accurate/inaccurate information/  
accuracy of information  
acknowledge/address opposing  
viewpoint/counterclaims  
address potential  
counterarguments/opposing  
claims  
affix  
analysis  
antonym  
argument  
argumentative text/article/  
essay/writing  
audience (as in writer's audience)  
author's intent  
author's message  
author's point of view  
author's purpose  
blog  
capitalization  
central idea  
character's action/  
characters' interaction/  
characters' relationships  
claim  
compare/contrast  
comparison  
conclude/conclusion  
conclusion drawn  
concrete details/words/  
phrases/language  
conflict/tension  
context  
contradict  
controlling idea/thesis  
conventions  
counterargument  
counterclaim  
credible  
definition  
develop ideas (evidence/  
elaboration)  
dialogue  
draft  
edit  
editorial  
elaborate/elaboration of ideas  
essay  
establish a claim  
evidence

excerpt  
explanatory article/text/  
essay/writing  
flashback  
focus  
global notes  
grammar usage  
heading  
illustrate  
inclusion  
infer/inference(s)/  
inference(s) made  
integrate information/ideas  
interaction  
interpretation  
introduction  
justify  
key events  
logical progression of ideas  
logical sequence of events  
mental picture/image  
multi-paragraph  
multiple meanings  
narrative/narrative writing  
observation  
organize/organization of ideas  
paraphrase/paraphrasing  
phrase  
plagiarism/plagiarize/plagiarizing  
plot  
point of view/viewpoint  
pre-write  
precise/concise language  
presentation  
punctuation/punctuated  
purpose (e.g., author's or  
speaker's purpose)  
purpose for writing (explanatory,  
argumentative, narrative writing)  
quotation(s)/quoting  
reference/identify sources  
relationship(s)  
relevant  
relevant supporting evidence  
research  
research question  
resolve/resolution  
revise  
root word  
sensory language/details

sequence of events  
setting  
skim  
source(s)  
stanza  
style  
summarize  
support  
synonym  
text structure (compare/contrast;  
cause/effect; problem/solution;  
pro/con)  
theme  
thesis/controlling idea  
tone  
topic  
transitions/transition words/  
phrases  
trustworthy source(s)  
visualize  
website

## Grade 8

accurate/inaccurate information/	evidence	sequence of events
accuracy of information	excerpt	setting
acknowledge/address opposing	explanatory article/text/	shift in narrator's perspective/
viewpoint/counterclaims	essay/writing	point of view
address potential	flashback	skim
counterarguments/opposing	focus	stanza
claims	global notes	style
affix	grammar usage	summarize
analysis	heading	support
antonym	illustrate	synonym
argument	inclusion	text structure (compare/contrast;
argumentative text/essay	infer/inference(s)/	cause/effect; problem/solution;
audience (as in writer's audience)	inference(s) made	pro/con)
author's intent	integrate information/ideas	theme
author's message	interaction	thesis/controlling idea
author's point of view	interpretation	tone
author's purpose	introduction	topic
blog	justify	transitions/transition
capitalization	key events	words/phrases/clauses
central idea	logical progression of ideas	trustworthy source(s)
character's action/	logical sequence of events	visualize
characters' interaction/	motive	voice (consistent/appropriate)
characters' relationships	multiple meanings	website
claim	narrative/narrative writing	
clarify claim/counterclaim	observation(s)	
clause	paraphrase/paraphrasing	
compare/contrast	phrases	
comparison	plagiarism/plagiarize/	
conclude/conclusion	plagiarizing	
conclusion drawn	plot	
concrete details/words/phrases/	point of view/viewpoint	
language	pre-write	
conflict/tension	precise/concise language/	
context	word choice	
contradict	presentation	
controlling idea/thesis	punctuation/punctuated	
conventions	purpose (e.g., author's or	
counterargument	speaker's purpose)	
counterclaim	purpose for writing (explanatory,	
credible	argumentative, narrative writing)	
develop ideas (evidence/	quotation(s)	
elaboration)	reference sources	
dialogue	relationships	
draft	relevant/irrelevant	
edit	relevant supporting evidence	
editorial	resolve/resolution	
elaborate/elaboration of ideas	revise	
essay	root word	
establish a claim	sensory details/language	

## Grade 11

acknowledge/address opposing viewpoint/counterclaims  
address potential counterarguments/opposing claims  
affix  
analysis  
antonym  
argument  
audience (as in writer's audience)  
author's intent  
author's point of view  
author's purpose  
bias  
blog  
capitalization  
central idea  
character's action/  
characters' interaction  
claim  
clarify claims/counterclaims  
compare/contrast  
colon/semi-colon  
comparison  
conclude/conclusion  
conclusion drawn  
concrete details/words/  
phrases/language  
conflict/tension  
context  
contradict  
conventions  
counterarguments  
counterclaim  
credible/credibility  
develop ideas (evidence/  
elaboration)  
dialogue  
effective use of  
analogy/metaphor/simile  
essay  
establish a claim  
evidence  
excerpt  
explanatory article/text/  
essay/writing  
flashback  
grammar usage  
hypothesis

inclusion  
inconsistent information (research)  
infer/inference(s)/inference(s)  
made  
integrate information/ideas  
interaction  
interpretation  
justify  
logical progression of idea  
mood  
multiple meanings  
narrative  
opposing claim  
organization  
parallel structure/parallelism  
paraphrase/paraphrasing  
perspective  
phrases/clauses  
plagiarism/plagiarize/  
plagiarizing  
position  
precise/concise language  
presentation  
punctuation  
purpose (e.g., author's or speaker's purpose)  
purpose for writing (explanatory, argumentative, narrative writing)  
quotation  
reference sources  
relevant/irrelevant  
relevant supporting evidence  
resolve/resolution  
root word  
sensory language  
setting  
shifts in narrator's perspective  
stanza  
style  
summarize  
synonym  
techniques (e.g. exaggeration, repetition, making a comparison, including a question)  
text structures  
(compare/contrast; cause effect; problem/solution; pro/con)  
theme

thesis/controlling idea  
tone  
transition words/phrases/  
clauses/sentences/paragraphs  
viewpoint/point of view  
voice (consistent use of verb voice)