



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 M-STEP even though the *EDL Core Vocabularies: Reading, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies* (ISBN 1-55855-811-X) 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 ELA test development teams.

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. The list 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.

The ELA Construct Relevant Vocabulary is posted on the M-STEP page.

Grade 3

affix	global notes	point of view
antonym	grammar usage	pre-writing
article/magazine article/ newspaper article	heading	presentation (listening stimulus)
audience (as in writer's audience)	illustration	punctuation/punctuated
author	imaginary	purpose for writing (informative, opinion, narrative writing)
capitals/capitalization	infer/inference(s)/ inference(s)	quotation/direct quotations/ quoting directly
central idea	made	reason(s)
character(s)	inform	relationship
character's actions	information	report
characters' relationships	informational paper/ informational article	research
clear language	Internet	research report
conclude/conclusion	introduce setting/ characters/problems (writing)	revise
conclusion drawn/drawing a conclusion	introduction	root word
connect ideas (transitions in writing)	key details	sentence/pair of sentences/set of sentences/line
convince/convincing (in opinion writing)	lesson/moral	setting
definition	main character	similar
describe/description/descriptive	main idea	skim
details/realistic details	meaning	source(s)
develop ideas (evidence/ elaboration)	mental picture (writing)	speaker (used in listening items)
dialogue	message (e.g., author's message)	specific word choice
dictionary/dictionary entry	narrator	spell check
draft	notes	spelling errors
edit	opening (beginning)	stanza
encyclopedia	opinion/agree/disagree	support/supporting details
errors	opposite	synonym
event	order of events	title
examples	organize(d)/organization of ideas	topic
explain	paragraph	trustworthy source
facts	passage	underlined
flashback	phrase	verb(s)/verb tense
	plot	

Grade 4

account	evidence	speaker's purpose)
adjectives	example	purpose for writing (informative, opinion, narrative writing)
affix	explain	quotes/quotation/direct
antonym	flashback	quotations/quoting directly/
appropriate information	global notes	quotation marks
article/magazine	grammar usage	reason(s)
article/newspaper	heading	relationship
article	imaginary	report
audience (as in writer's audience)	infer /inference(s)/	research
author	inference(s) made	research question
author's message	inform	research report
author's point of view	information	revise
blog	informational paper/	root word
capitals/capitalization	informational articles	section
central idea	Internet	sensory details/language
characters	introduction	sentences/set of sentences/pair of sentences/line/statement
character's actions	key details	setting
characters' relationships	key events	similar
chart/graph/diagram/table	key idea	skim
clear language	main characters	sources
comma	main idea	speaker
compare/contrast	main problem	specific/exact word(s)/ word choice(s)/language
conclude/conclusion/	meaning	spell check
concluding statement	mental picture (writing)	spelling errors
conclusion drawn/drawing a conclusion	narrative (story)	stanza
conflict	narrator notes	summary/summarize(s)
connect ideas (transitions in writing)	opening (beginning)	supporting details/evidence/ reasons
convince	opinion(s)/agree/disagree	synonym
definition(s)	opposite	theme
describe/description/descriptive details/realistic details	order of events	timeline
develop ideas (evidence/ elaboration)	organize(d)/organization of ideas	title
dialogue	paragraph	topic
dictionary/dictionary entry	passage	transitions
draft	phrase	trustworthy source
edit	plot	underline
encyclopedia	poem	verb/tense shift
errors	point of view/view (point)	webpage/website
event	pre-writing	writer's message
	presentation (listening stimulus)	
	punctuation/punctuated	
	purpose (e.g., author's or	

Grade 5

affix	elaborate/elaboration of ideas	punctuation/punctuated
antonym	errors	purpose (e.g., author's or speaker's purpose)
appropriate information	essay	purpose for writing (informative, opinion, narrative writing)
article	event	quotations/direct quotations/ quoting directly/quotation marks
audience (as in writer's audience)	evidence	reasons
author	example	relationship
author's message	explain	report
author's point of view	first paragraph	research
blog	flashback	research question
capitals/capitalization	focus	research report
cause/effect	global notes	revise
central idea	grammar usage	root word
characters	headings	sensory details/language
character's actions	imaginary	setting
characters' relationships	infer/inference(s)/ inference(s)	similar
chart/graph/diagram/table	made	skim
clear language	inform	source(s)
comma(s)	informational	speaker
compare/contrast	paper/informational article	specific/exact word(s)/ word choice(s)/information
conclude/conclusion/	Internet	spell check
concluding statement	introduction	spelling errors
conclusion drawn/drawing a conclusion	key detail(s)	stanza
concrete details	key events	statement/sentence/set of sentences/pair of sentences/line
conflict	key point	summary/summarize(s)
connect ideas - (transitions in writing)	main idea	supporting evidence/reasons
convince	main problem	synonym
create definition(s)	meaning	theme
describe/description/descriptive details/ realistic details	mental picture (writing)	thesaurus
determine	narrative	timeline
develop ideas (evidence/ elaboration)	narrator notes	title
dialogue	opinion(s)/agree/disagree	topic
dictionary	opposite	transition words/phrases
entry	organize(d)/organization of ideas	trustworthy source(s)
draft	paragraph	verbs/verb tense/shifts
edit	passage	webpage/website
effect	phrase	
effective beginning /ending	plot	
	point of view/view (point)	
	pre-write	
	presentation	

Grade 6

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

Grade 7

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

Grade 8

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