Construct Relevant Vocabulary for English Language Arts and Literacy

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“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
antonym
article.magazine article/newspaper article
audience (as in writer’s audience)
author
capitals/capitalization
central idea
character(s)
character’s actions
characters’ relationships
clear language
conclude/conclusion
conclusion drawn/drawing a conclusion
connect ideas (transitions in writing)
convince/convincing (in opinion writing)
definition
describe/description/descriptive
details/realistic details
develop ideas (evidence/elaboration)
dialogue
dictionary/dictionary entry
draft
draft
edit
evergy
errors
event
examples
explain
facts
flashback
grammar usage
heading
illustration
imaginary
infer/inference(s)/inference(s)
made
inform
information
informational paper/informational article
Internet
introduce setting/
characters/problems (writing)
introduction
key details
lesson/moral
main character
main idea
meaning
mental picture (writing)
message (e.g., author’s message)
narrator
notes
opening (beginning)
opinion/agree/disagree
opposite
order of events
organize(d)/organization of ideas
paragraph
passage
phrase
plot
point of view
pre-writing
presentation (listening stimulus)
punctuation/punctuated
purpose for writing (informative, opinion, narrative writing)
quotation/direct quotations/quoting directly
reason(s)
relationship
report
research
research report
revise
root word
sentence/pair of sentences/set of sentences/line
setting
similar
skim
source(s)
speaker (used in listening items)
specific word choice
spelling errors
stanza
support/supporting details
synonym
title
topic
trustworthy source
underlined
verb(s)/verb tense
account
adjectives
affix
antonym
appropriate information
article/magazine
article/newspaper
article
audience (as in writer's audience)
author
author's message
author's point of view
blog
capitals/capitalization
central idea
characters
character's actions
characters’ relationships
chart/graph/diagram/table
clear language
comma
compare/contrast
conclude/conclusion/
concluding statement
conclusion drawn/drawing a conclusion
conflict
connect ideas (transitions in writing)
convince
definition(s)
describe/description/descriptive details/realistic details
develop ideas (evidence/elaboration)
dialogue
dictionary/dictionary entry
draftedit
encyclopedia
errors
event
evidence
example
explain
flashback
grammar usage
heading
imaginary
infer /inference(s)/
inference(s) made
inform
information
informational paper/informational articles
Internet
introduction
key details
key events
key idea
main characters
main idea
main problem
meaning
mental picture (writing)
narrative (story)
narrator notes
opening (beginning)
opinion(s)/agree/disagree
opposite
order of events
organize(d)/organization of ideas
paragraph
passage
phrase
plot
poem
point of view/view (point)
pre-writing
presentation (listening stimulus)
punctuation/punctuated
purpose (e.g., author's or speaker's purpose)
purpose for writing (informative, opinion, narrative writing)
quotes/quotation/direct quotation marks
reason(s)
relationship
report
research
research question
research report
revise
root word
section
sensory details/language
sentences/set of sentences/pair of sentences/line/statement
setting
similar
skim
sources
speaker
specific/exact word(s)/word choice(s)/language
spelling errors
stanza
summary/summarize(s)
supporting details/evidence/reasons
synonym
theme
timeline
title
topic
transitions
trustworthy source
underline
verb/tense shift
webpage/website
writer’s message
Grade 5

affix  antonym  appropriate information  
article  audience (as in writer's audience)  
author  author's message  
author's point of view  
blog  capitals/capitalization  
cause/effect  central idea  
characters  character's actions  
characters' relationships  
chart/graph/diagram/table  clear language  
comma(s)  compare/contrast  
conclude/conclusion/  
concluding statement  
conclusion drawn/drawing a conclusion  
concrete details  conflict  
connect ideas - (transitions in writing)  
convince  create definition(s)  
describe/description/descriptive details/ realistic details  
determine  develop ideas (evidence/ elaboration)  
dialogue  dictionary  
entry  draft  
edit  effect  
effective beginning /ending  
elaborate/elaboration of ideas  
errors  essay  
event  evidence  
example  explain  
first paragraph  flashback  
focus  grammar usage  
headings  imaginary  
infer/inference(s)/ inference(s) made  
inform  informational  
paper/informational article  Internet  
introduction  key detail(s)  
key events  key point  
main idea  main problem  
meaning  mental picture (writing)  
narrative  narrator notes  
opinion(s)/agree/disagree  
opposite  organize(d)/organization of ideas  
paragraph  passage  
phrase  plot  
point of view/view (point)  
pre-write  presentation  
punctuation/punctuated purpose (e.g., author's or speaker's purpose)  
purpose for writing (informative, opinion, narrative writing)  
quotation(s)/direct quotations/ quoting directly/quotation marks  
reasons  relationship  
report  research  
research question  
research report  
revise  root word  
sensory details/language  
setting  similar  
skim  source(s)  
speaker  specific/exact word(s)/ word choice(s)/information  
spelling errors  stanza  
statement/sentence/set of sentences/pair of sentences/line  
summary/summarize(s)  
supporting evidence/reasons  
synonym  theme  
thesaurus  timeline  
title  topic  
transition words/phrases  
trustworthy source(s)  
verbs/verb tense/shifts  
webpage/website
Grade 6

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