



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

## Grade 4

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

## Grade 5

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

## Grade 6

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

## Grade 7

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

## Grade 8

accurate/inaccurate information/ accuracy of information	elaboration)	presentation
acknowledge/address opposing viewpoint/counterclaims	dialogue	punctuation/punctuated
address potential counterarguments/opposing claims	draft	purpose (e.g., author's or speaker's purpose)
affix	edit	purpose for writing (explanatory, argumentative, narrative writing)
analysis	editorial	quotation(s)
antonym	elaborate/elaboration of ideas	reference sources
argument	essay	relationships
argumentative text/essay	establish a claim	relevant/irrelevant
audience (as in writer's audience)	evidence	relevant supporting evidence
author's intent	excerpt	resolve/resolution revise root
author's message	explanatory article/text/ essay/writing	word sensory details/language
author's point of view	flashback	sequence of events
author's purpose	focus	setting
blog	grammar usage	shift in narrator's perspective/ point of view
capitalization	heading	skim
central idea	illustrate	stanza
character's action/ characters' interaction/ characters' relationships	inclusion	style
claim	infer/inference(s)/ inference(s)	summarize
clarify	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 choice	