



How to Write a Glossary

Glossaries provide definitions and visuals to help the reader of your informative writing project understand specific vocabulary words about your topic. This will help your reader better comprehend the concepts and information you're sharing. In order to write a glossary in your own words, you might want to try this procedure:

1. Jot down notes about what the word means to you so far.
2. Look up the definition of the word in at least two places—online, in your textbook, in a dictionary (be careful to choose the right definition!), and in the texts you're reading as you research.
3. Re-write your own definition with ideas from the other 2-3 sources. Be careful not to copy full sentences, you may want to paraphrase by using synonyms, or borrowing phrases from each of the definitions you look up.
4. Add a visual to your definition to help the reader better remember your word.
5. Ask a partner to read the definition and see if they understand it. If they don't, add more detail or clarify until they can understand your definition. You can also add examples of the concept to the definition to help out.

WORD	DEFINITION	PICTURE OR EXAMPLE
	<p>Long tubular structure attached to the butterfly's head which is used to suck nectar from flowers.</p>	