



SmarterBalanced Construct Relevant Vocabulary for English/Language Arts and Literacy

Knox Education reformatted from ELA_Construct_Relevant_Vocabulary at SBAC.com

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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 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
edit
encyclopedia
errors
event
examples
explain
facts
flashback
global notes
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
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
spell check
spelling errors
stanza
support/supporting details
synonym
title
topic
trustworthy source
underlined
verb(s)/verb tense

Grade 4

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

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
editorial
effective beginnings/endings
elaborate/elaboration of ideas
essay
establish a claim
evidence
example
excerpt
explanatory article/text/
essay/writing

flashback
focus
global notes
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
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)
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
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
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
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
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