



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



## Grade 4

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

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

## Grade 6

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

## Grade 7

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

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

## Grade 11

acknowledge/address opposing viewpoint/counterclaims	inclusion	thesis/controlling idea
address potential	inconsistent information (research)	tone
counterarguments/opposing claims	infer/inference(s)/inference(s) made	transition words/phrases/ clauses/sentences/paragraphs
affix	integrate information/ideas	viewpoint/point of view
analysis	interaction	voice (consistent use of verb voice)
antonym	interpretation	
argument	justify	
audience (as in writer's audience)	logical progression of idea	
author's intent	mood	
author's point of view	multiple meanings	
author's purpose	narrative	
bias	opposing claim	
blog	organization	
capitalization	parallel structure/parallelism	
central idea	paraphrase/paraphrasing	
character's action/ characters' interaction	perspective	
claim	phrases/clauses	
clarify claims/counterclaims	plagiarism/plagiarize/ plagiarizing	
compare/contrast	position	
colon/semi-colon	precise/concise language	
comparison	presentation	
conclude/conclusion	punctuation	
conclusion drawn	purpose (e.g., author's or speaker's purpose)	
concrete details/words/ phrases/language	purpose for writing (explanatory, argumentative, narrative writing)	
conflict/tension	quotation	
context	reference sources	
contradict	relevant/irrelevant	
conventions	relevant supporting evidence	
counterarguments	resolve/resolution	
counterclaim	root word	
credible/credibility	sensory language	
develop ideas (evidence/ elaboration)	setting	
dialogue	shifts in narrator's perspective	
effective use of analogy/metaphor/simile	stanza	
essay	style	
establish a claim	summarize	
evidence	synonym	
excerpt	techniques (e.g. exaggeration, repetition, making a comparison, including a question)	
explanatory article/text/ essay/writing	text structures	
flashback	(compare/contrast; cause effect; problem/solution; pro/con)	
grammar usage	theme	
hypothesis		