



Smarter Balanced

Construct Relevant Vocabulary for

English Language Arts and Literacy

June 2015





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

Grade 5

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
capitals/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	opposite	
writing)	organize(d)/organization of ideas	
convince	paragraph	
create	passage	
definition(s)	phrase	
describe/description/descriptive	plot	
details/ realistic details	point of view/view (point)	
determine	pre-write	
develop ideas (evidence/	presentation	
elaboration)	punctuation/punctuated	
dialogue	purpose (e.g., author's or	
dictionary entry	speaker's purpose)	
draft	purpose for writing (informative,	
edit	opinion, narrative writing)	
effect	quotations/direct quotations/	
effective beginning /ending	quoting directly/quotation marks	
elaborate/elaboration of ideas	reasons	
errors	relationship	
essay	report	
event	research	
evidence	research question	
example	research report	
explain	revise	
	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	phrase	
writing)	plagiarism/plagiarize/	
contradict	plagiarizing	
controlling idea/thesis	plot	
conventions	point of view/viewpoint	
credible sources	pre-write	
describe/description	precise/specific language	
develop ideas (evidence/	presentation	
elaboration)	punctuation/punctuated	
dialogue	purpose (e.g., author's or	
draft	speaker's purpose)	
edit	purpose for writing (explanatory,	
editorial	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/	research	
essay/writing	research question	

Grade 7

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

Grade 8

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	topic
central idea	justify	transitions/transition
character's action/ characters' interaction/ characters' relationships	key events	words/phrases/clauses
claim	logical progression of ideas	trustworthy source(s)
clarify claim/counterclaim	logical sequence of events	visualize
clause	motive	voice (consistent/appropriate)
compare/contrast	multiple meanings	website
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 counterarguments/opposing claims	inconsistent information (research)	tone
affix	infer/inference(s)/inference(s) made	transition words/phrases/ clauses/sentences/paragraphs
analysis	integrate information/ideas	viewpoint/point of view
antonym	interaction	voice (consistent use of verb voice)
argument	interpretation	
audience (as in writer's audience)	justify	
author's intent	logical progression of idea	
author's point of view	mood	
author's purpose	multiple meanings	
bias	narrative	
blog	opposing claim	
capitalization	organization	
central idea	parallel structure/parallelism	
character's action/	paraphrase/paraphrasing	
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	stanza	
analogy/metaphor/simile	style	
essay	summarize	
establish a claim	synonym	
evidence	techniques (e.g. exaggeration, repetition, making a comparison, including a question)	
excerpt	text structures	
explanatory article/text/ essay/writing	(compare/contrast; cause effect; problem/solution; pro/con)	
flashback	theme	
grammar usage		
hypothesis		