

Vocabulary Instruction Rubric

Criteria/Rating	Not Complying	Partially Complying	Complying	Complying with Quality
Word Selection Not enough time exists for teaching all terms to the same depth of knowledge. Therefore it is critical that teachers prioritize terms.	The teacher does not plan for direct instruction of vocabulary.	The teacher has chosen vocabulary for direct instruction, but there are too many words. or The teacher has chosen vocabulary for direct instruction, but it is based on the textbook or literature rather than standards.	The teacher emphasizes key unit vocabulary on Student Learning Maps.	The teacher emphasizes the 12 Most Powerful Words and key unit vocabulary on Student Learning Maps.
Selecting a Strategy Teachers must accurately select the correct strategy for learning terms based on the intended purpose of the lesson, avoiding forcing strategies to work and without always using the same two or three strategies.	No specific strategy has been selected to teach the new vocabulary.	The teacher has selected one strategy, such as the Frayer Model, and appears to use it for all word instruction. Teacher is using but has not adapted the strategy used although it would be more effective.	The teacher has determined which strategy to select based on the purpose of introducing new vocabulary. The teacher does not use the same strategy for all words or force a strategy that is not appropriate for all words.	The selected strategy/strategies accomplish instructional intentions for explicitly teaching the new words (4 Box Word Analysis), new concepts (Frayer Model or Word Map), guided practice (Word Pyramid or Visualize and Draw), previewing (Do I Know the Meanings of These Words or 5-3-1) or reviewing (Quick Talk or I have Who has). The teacher has practiced selected strategies and adapt them as needed for students with learning differences (i.e. provide a word bank or framed definition) before the lesson.
Use of Vocabulary Practices and Strategies Teachers need to try strategies before using them with students. Modeling, thinking aloud, and guiding practice is critical collaboration for students to be able to effective use strategies for learning and using new terms.	The teacher implements the strategy with little or no explanation. OR The vocabulary is taught/discussed without a specific strategy to assist in its understanding.	The teacher models the strategy but does not make clear to students the thought process involved. The teacher rushes through or does not provide adequate time for guided practice that enables all students to be successful. The teacher utilizes independent practice rather than guided pairs, with little feedback to students about accuracy. Students have at least one additional opportunity to use the vocabulary during the lesson.	The teacher has practiced using the strategy with the intended vocabulary before the lesson. The teacher explains how students will use a specific strategy to help them learn new words. The teacher models the steps in the process with thinking out loud. The teacher uses guided pairs with feedback about accuracy. Students have two-three additional opportunities to use the vocabulary during the lesson.	The teacher provides precise instruction that explains the strategy and how it is used to learn new vocabulary. The teacher teaches the steps in the process for learning a strategy with extensive modeling with thinking out loud and provides feedback as students work in collaborative pairs during guided practice. The teacher provides multiple experiences for student to apply their new word knowledge, i.e. during discussions, vocabulary games, writing activities and responses to content prompts during the lesson.



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Expectations for	If at all, students	Students record the	The teacher expects	The teacher expects
Students	are randomly	word and the teacher's	students to record	students to maintain a
	asked to record	definition (or just the	the new vocabulary	record of new vocabulary in
Students organize	new vocabulary	definition from the	in notebooks.	notebooks and checks them
terms using strategies	in notebooks	dictionary or other		for accuracy weekly.
taught by teachers	but accuracy is	resource).	Students record the	
(such as vocabulary	not checked.		vocabulary with the	Students organize and
notebooks). Students		Students are	teacher's meaning	record new words with the
use key vocabulary	Students are not	occasionally	and then create a	teacher's definition and then
correctly during	encouraged to	encouraged to use their	memory reference or	paraphrase the meaning in
writing, Extending	use their	notebooks as a	connection that will	their own words and add a
Thinking,	notebooks as a	resource during review	help them remember	non-linguistic representation
Summarizing, and	resource during	or writing activities.	it.	or memory enhancer.
assignments.	review or writing			
	activities.	When time permits,	Students refer to	Students are expected to
		notebooks are randomly	notebooks for	refer to notebooks as a
		checked for accuracy.	review, extending	resource for review,
			thinking,	extending thinking,
		The format for	summarizing, and	summarizing, all writing
		organizing and	writing activities.	activities and as a study tool
		recording new words is		before tests.
		constantly changing.		