

Student Lexicon

Vocabulary strategy to develop academic content language across all subject areas and individualized for students to feel successful

Directions for Student Lexicon:

Strategy to be used as “Warm-up” in all curricular areas where applicable (mainly language-rich classes such as Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies), but can be modified for Math classes as well.

1. Teacher projects on board 2 – 3 sentences with key words in different color.
2. Student copies down sentences in journal (day book) and writes down his/her predicted meaning of the words in color.
3. Teacher asks students for their predicted definitions. This leads to a discussion of how the student decided of the definition. Having 2 – 3 sentences with the same words will give the students context in which to find the meaning of the word.
4. Ideally, class discussions will lead to correct definition. If not, teacher will provide correct definition of words in color.
5. Students copy correct meanings in journal.
6. Groups of students can create “Class Lexicons” on Google Docs (or similar technology application) periodically.

Types of words on which to focus:

- Academic Vocabulary (determined by teacher or curriculum driven) – bold blue letters
- Tricky Words (figurative language, idioms, syntactically unclear) – underlined red letters
- Student Selected (can be anything the student is unsure about) – student identifies these words in own journal

Example Sentences:

US **citizens** may soon have to produce an id card to receive health care.

If you're a law-abiding **citizen** with nothing to hide you've nothing to fear.

Many naturalized **citizens** chose to change their names for fear of persecution.