

## **Six Step Process for Teaching Academic Vocabulary**

**Step 1: The teacher will give a description, explanation, or example of the new term.**

- \* Provide learners information about the term.
- \* Determine what the learner already knows about the term.
- \* Ask learners to share what they already know as a means of monitoring misconceptions.
- \* Ask learners to share what they already know to use this knowledge as a foundation for more learning.
- \* Utilize examples, descriptions, but not definitions. Definitions are not a recommended method for vocabulary instruction as they do not provide learners an informal, natural way to learn new vocabulary.
- Instruct learning of proper noun terms through identifying characteristics of the proper noun.

**Step 2: The teacher will ask the learner to give a description, explanation, or example of the new term in his/her own words.**

- \* Remind learners to not copy, but use their own words.
- \* Monitor students to determine if any confusion exists.
- \* Provide more descriptions, explanations, or examples if necessary.
- \* Request that students record these in their Academic Notebook Worksheet. These notebooks can travel with the learner as he/she moves through each grade level and become a compilation of vocabulary terms mastered.

**Step 3: The teacher will ask the learner to draw a picture, symbol, or locate a graphic to represent the new term.**

- \* Provides learners a nonlinguistic method of vocabulary mastery.
- \* Share examples of other learners' drawings or allow students to work in teams to help those who complain that cannot draw.
- \* Teach the concept of speed drawing for those who labor too long over their work.
- \* Ask learner to share their work.
- \* Use graphics from magazines or the Internet.
- \* Illustrating terms through symbols, drawing the actual term, illustrating with a cartoon, or drawing an example of the term should be encouraged.

**Step 4: The learner will participate in activities that provide more knowledge of the words in their vocabulary notebooks.**

- \* Remind learners to not copy, but use their own words.
- \* Distribute the Academic Notebook Worksheet to assist learners in organizing their vocabulary terms.
- \* Encourage learners to identify prefixes, suffixes, antonyms, synonyms, related words for the vocabulary term as "new info" on the Academic Notebook Worksheet.
- \* If English is a second language to the learner, provide an opportunity to translate the word into their native language (BabelFish).

**Step 5: The learner will discuss the term with other learners.**

Pair-Share Strategy:

1. THINK: Allow think time for learners to review their own descriptions and images of the terms.
2. PAIR: Put learners in pairs to discuss their descriptions, images, and any new info related to the terms.
3. SHARE: Provide opportunity for groups to share aloud and discuss conceptions and misconceptions.

Monitor as learners help each other identify and clear up confusion about new terms.

**Step 6: The learner will participate in games that provide more reinforcement of the new term.**