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
antonym
article/magazine article/
newspaper article
audience (as in writer's
audience)
author
capitals/capitalization
central idea
character(s)
character's actions
characters' relationships
clear language
conclude/conclusion
conclusion drawn/drawing a
conclusion
connect ideas (transitions in
writing)
convince/convincing (in opinion
writing)
definition
describe/description/descriptive
details/realistic details
develop ideas (evidence/
elaboration)
dialogue
dictionary/dictionary entry
draft
edit
encyclopedia
errors
event
examples
explain
facts
flashback
global notes
grammar usage
heading
illustration
imaginary
infer/inference(s)/
inference(s) made
inform
information
informational paper/
informational article
Internet
introduce setting/
characters/problems (writing)
introduction
key details
lesson/moral
main character
main idea
meaning
mental picture (writing)
message (e.g., author's
message)
narrator
notes
opening (beginning)
opinion/agree/disagree
opposite
order of events
organize(d)/organization of
ideas
paragraph
passage
phrase
plot
point of view
pre-writing
presentation (listening stimulus)
punctuation/punctuated
purpose for writing (informative,
opinion, narrative writing)
quotation/direct quotations/
quoting directly
reason(s)
relationship
report
research
research report
revise
root word
sentence/pair of sentences/set
of sentences/line
setting
similar
skim
source(s)
speaker (used in listening items)
specific word choice
spell check
spelling errors
stanza
support/supporting details
synonym
title
topic
trustworthy source
underlined
verb(s)/verb tense
Grade 4

account
adjectives
affix
antonym
appropriate information
article/magazine article/newspaper article
audience (as in writer's audience)
author
author's message
author's point of view
blog
capitals/capitalization
central idea
characters
character's actions
characters' relationships
chart/graph/diagram/table
clear language
comma
compare/contrast
conclude/conclusion/
concluding statement
conclusion drawn/drawing a conclusion
conflict
collect ideas (transitions in writing)
convince
definition(s)
describe/description/descriptive
details/realtistic details
develop ideas (evidence/
elaboration)
dialogue
dictionary/dictionary entry
draft
edit
encyclopedia
errors
event
evidence
example
explain
flashback
global notes
grammar usage
heading
imaginary
infer/inference(s)/
inference(s) made
inform
information
informational paper/
informational articles
Internet
introduction
key details
key events
key idea
main characters
main idea
main problem
meaning
mental picture (writing)
narrative (story)
narrator
notes
opening (beginning)
opinion(s)/agree/disagree
opposite
order of events
organize(d)/organization of ideas
paragraph
passage
phrase
plot
poem
point of view/view (point)
pre-writing
presentation (listening stimulus)
punctuation/punctuated
purpose (e.g., author's or speaker's purpose)
purpose for writing (informative,
opinion, narrative writing)
quotes/quotation/direct
quotations/quotuing directly/
quotation marks
reason(s)
relationship
report
research
research question
research report
revise
root word
section
sensory details/language
sentences/set of sentences/pair of
sentences/line/statement
setting
similar
skim
sources
speaker
specific/exact word(s)/
word choice(s)/language
spell check
spelling errors
stanza
summary/summarize(s)
supporting details/evidence/
reasons
synonym
theme
timeline
title
topic
transitions
trustworthy source
underline
verb/tense shift
webpage/website
writer's message
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>affix</td>
<td>a letter or group of letters added to another word to form a new word</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>antonym</td>
<td>a word with the opposite meaning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>appropriate information</td>
<td>relevant and useful data or facts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>article</td>
<td>a word used to introduce a noun or pronoun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>audience (as in writer's audience)</td>
<td>people for whom a writer is writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>author</td>
<td>a person who writes a work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>author's message</td>
<td>the main idea or purpose of a writer's work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>author's point of view</td>
<td>the perspective from which a writer views the subject of their writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>blog</td>
<td>a website or online publication that is updated regularly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>capitals/capitalization</td>
<td>the use of uppercase letters in proper names or at the beginning of sentences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cause/effect</td>
<td>a relationship where one event causes another event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>central idea</td>
<td>the main point or message of a work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>characters</td>
<td>the people or creatures in a story or work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>character's actions</td>
<td>the actions or behaviors of a character</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>characters' relationships</td>
<td>the connections or interactions between characters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chart/graph/diagram/table</td>
<td>visual representations of data or information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>clear language</td>
<td>language that is easy to understand and comprehend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>comma(s)</td>
<td>a punctuation mark used to separate elements in a sentence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>compare/contrast</td>
<td>the act of comparing two or more things</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>conclude/conclusion/ concluding statement</td>
<td>the final part of a piece of writing where the main points are summarized</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>conclusion drawn/drawing a conclusion</td>
<td>the act of forming an opinion or conclusion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>concrete details</td>
<td>specific and descriptive information about a topic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>conflict</td>
<td>a disagreement or dispute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>connect ideas - (transitions in writing)</td>
<td>the act of linking ideas or sentences in a piece of writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>convince</td>
<td>to make someone believe something</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>create</td>
<td>to bring something into existence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>definition(s)</td>
<td>a word or phrase that explains the meaning of another word or phrase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>describe/description/descriptive details/ realistic details</td>
<td>words or phrases that give a clear picture of a subject</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>determine</td>
<td>to reach a conclusion or make a decision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>develop ideas (evidence/ elaboration)</td>
<td>the act of presenting ideas or evidence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dialogue</td>
<td>a conversation or exchange of ideas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dictionary entry</td>
<td>a word or phrase and its meaning, often found in a dictionary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>draft</td>
<td>an initial or rough version of a writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>edit</td>
<td>to correct or improve a piece of writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>effect</td>
<td>a change or influence caused by something</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>effective beginning /ending</td>
<td>the opening or closing part of a work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>elaborate/elaboration of ideas</td>
<td>the act of adding detail or explanation to an idea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>errors</td>
<td>mistakes or inaccuracies in writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>essay</td>
<td>a piece of writing that presents an argument or analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>event</td>
<td>an occurrence that is noteworthy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>evidence</td>
<td>factual material or proof used to show or confirm a statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>example</td>
<td>a specific instance or instance used to illustrate a point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>explain</td>
<td>to give a reason or cause for something</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>first paragraph</td>
<td>the opening or introductory paragraph of a work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>flashback</td>
<td>a scene that shows an event that happened earlier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>focus</td>
<td>the subject or primary idea of a work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>global notes</td>
<td>additional or important points made in a piece of writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>grammar usage</td>
<td>the correct or incorrect use of grammar rules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>headings</td>
<td>titles or subheadings in a piece of writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>imaginary</td>
<td>not real or not actual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>infer/inference(s)/ inference(s) made</td>
<td>the act of deriving conclusions or making assumptions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>inform</td>
<td>to give information or knowledge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>informational</td>
<td>providing or explaining information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet</td>
<td>a worldwide computer network used for communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>introduction</td>
<td>the opening or introductory part of a piece of writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>key detail(s)</td>
<td>the most important or crucial details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>key events</td>
<td>the main or significant events in a story or work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>key point</td>
<td>the most important or crucial point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>main idea</td>
<td>the main point or central thought of a work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>main problem</td>
<td>the central or primary issue in a story or work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>meaning</td>
<td>the significance or interpretation of a word or phrase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mental picture (writing)</td>
<td>a mental image or visualization created by the text</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>narrative</td>
<td>a story or account</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>narrator</td>
<td>the person telling a story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>notes</td>
<td>written or recorded information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>opinion(s)/agree/disagree</td>
<td>the act of expressing one's beliefs or judgments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>opposite</td>
<td>a word with the opposite meaning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>organize(d)/organization of ideas</td>
<td>the act of arranging or structuring ideas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>paragraph</td>
<td>a section of a work that is written as a single unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>passage</td>
<td>a section or part of a work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phrase</td>
<td>a group of words that has meaning and is grammatically related</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plot</td>
<td>the sequence of events or story development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>point of view/view (point)</td>
<td>the perspective from which a story or work is viewed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pre-write</td>
<td>the act of planning or preparing to write</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>presentation</td>
<td>the act of showing or explaining something</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>punctuation/punctuated</td>
<td>the use of punctuation marks in writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>purpose (e.g., author's or speaker's purpose)</td>
<td>the reason or intent behind a work or speech</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>purpose for writing (informative, opinion, narrative writing)</td>
<td>the reason for writing a piece of work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quotations/direct quotations/ quoting directly/quotation marks</td>
<td>the act of using another person's words</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reasons</td>
<td>the causes or justifications for something</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>relationship</td>
<td>a connection or bond between things</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>report</td>
<td>a detailed or formal account of an event or activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>research</td>
<td>the act of investigating or studying something</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>research question</td>
<td>a question that drives a research project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>research report</td>
<td>a written account of the results of a research project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>revise</td>
<td>to correct or improve a piece of writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sensory details/language</td>
<td>words or phrases that describe physical sensations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>setting</td>
<td>the time and place in which a story or work is set</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>similar</td>
<td>having the same characteristics or features</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>skim</td>
<td>to read quickly or superficially</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>source(s)</td>
<td>the origin or origin of something</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>speaker</td>
<td>the person speaking or talking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>specific/exact word (s)/ word choice(s)/information</td>
<td>the act of selecting or choosing words</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spell check</td>
<td>the act of checking for spelling errors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stanza</td>
<td>a section of a poem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>statement/sentence/set of sentences/pair of sentences/line summary/summarize(s)</td>
<td>the act of summarizing or condensing information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>supporting evidence/reasons</td>
<td>the act of providing evidence or reasons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>synonym</td>
<td>a word with a similar meaning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>theme</td>
<td>the main idea or central thought of a work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>thesaurus</td>
<td>a reference book of words and their meanings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>timeline</td>
<td>a visual representation of events in order of time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>title</td>
<td>the name or title of a work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>topic</td>
<td>a subject or area of study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>transition words/phrases</td>
<td>words or phrases used to connect ideas or sentences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>trustworthy source(s)</td>
<td>information that is reliable and accurate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>verbs/verb tense/shifts</td>
<td>words that express actions or states of being</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| webpage/website | a website or online resource
Grade 6

accurate/inaccurate information
affix
analysis
antonym
appropriate information
argument
argumentative article/text/ essay
audience (as in writer's audience)
author's intent
author's message
author's point of view
blog
capitalization
central idea
character's action/
characters' relationship/
characters' interaction
claim
closure
compare/contrast
comparison
conclude/conclusion
conclusion drawn
concrete/specific/
realistic details
conflict/tension
connections/relationships
between ideas (transitions in
writing)
contradict
controlling idea/thesis
conventions
credible sources
describe/description
develop ideas (evidence/
elaboration)
dialogue
draft
edit
editorial
effective beginnings/endings
elaborate/elaboration of ideas
essay
establish a claim
evidence
example
excerpt
explanatory article/text/
essay/writing
flashback
focus
global notes
grammar usage
heading
imaginary
inclusion
infer/inference(s)/
inference(s) made
integrate information/ideas
interaction
interpretation
introduction
justify
key detail
key event
logical progression of ideas
logical sequence of events
mental picture (writing)
multi-paragraph
multiple meanings
narrative/narrative writing
narrator
observation
opinion
organize/organization
paraphrase/paraphrasing
phrase
plagiarism/plagiarize/
plagiarizing
plot
point of view/viewpoint
pre-write
precise/specific language
presentation
punctuation/punctuated
purpose (e.g., author's or
speaker's purpose)
purpose for writing (explanatory,
argumentative, narrative writing)
quotatation/quoting
reference/identify sources
relationship
relevant
relevant supporting evidence/
reasons/details/information
represent
research
research question
resolve/resolution
revise
root word
sensory language/details
sequence of events
setting
skim
source(s)
stanza
style
summarize
support
synonym
text structures
(compare/contrast; cause effect;
problem/solution; pro/con)
tone
topic
transitions/transitions words/
phrases
trustworthy source(s)
visualize
website
Grade 7

accurate/inaccurate information/
accuracy of information
acknowledge/address opposing
viewpoint/counterclaims
address potential
counterarguments/opposing
claims
affix
analysis
antonym
argument
argumentative text/article/
essay/writing
audience (as in writer's audience)
author's intent
author's message
author's point of view
author's purpose
blog
capitalization
central idea
character's action/
characters' interaction/
characters' relationships
claim
compare/contrast
comparison
conclude/conclusion
conclusion drawn
concrete details/words/
phrases/language
conflict/tension
context
contradict
controlling idea/thesis
conventions
counterargument
counterclaim
credible
definition
develop ideas (evidence/
elaboration)
dialogue
draft
edit
editorial
elaborate/elaboration of ideas
essay
establish a claim
evidence
excerpt
explanatory article/text/
essay/writing
flashback
focus
global notes
grammar usage
heading
illustrate
inclusion
infer/inference(s)/
inference(s) made
integrate information/ideas
interaction
interpretation
introduction
justify
key events
logical progression of ideas
logical sequence of events
mental picture/image
multi-paragraph
multiple meanings
narrative/narrative writing
observation
organize/organization of ideas
paraphrase/paraphrasing
phrase
plagiarism/plagiarize/plagiarizing
plot
point of view/viewpoint
pre-write
precise/concise language
presentation
punctuation/punctuated
purpose (e.g., author's or
speaker's purpose)
purpose for writing (explanatory,
argumentative, narrative writing)
quotation(s)/quoting
reference/identify sources
relationship(s)
relevant
relevant supporting evidence
research
research question
resolve/resolution
revise
root word
sensory language/details
sequence of events
setting
skim
source(s)
stanza
style
summarize
support
synonym
text structure (compare/contrast;
cause/effect; problem/solution;
pro/con)
theme
thesis/controlling idea
tone
topic
transitions/transition words/
phrases
trustworthy source(s)
visualize
website
accurate/inaccurate information/
accuracy of information
acknowledge/address opposing viewpoint/counterclaims
address potential counterarguments/opposing claims
affix analysis antonym argument argumentative text/essay audience (as in writer's audience) author's intent author's message author's point of view author's purpose blog capitalization central idea character's action/
characters' interaction/characters' relationships claim clarify claim/counterclaim clause compare/contrast comparison conclude/conclusion conclusion drawn concrete details/words/phrases/language conflict/tension context contradict controlling idea/thesis conventions counterargument counterclaim credible develop ideas (evidence/elaboration) dialogue draft edit editorial elaborate/elaboration of ideas essay establish a claim
evidence excerpt explanatory article/text/ essay/writing flashback focus global notes grammar usage heading illustrate inclusion infer/inference(s)/inference(s) made integrate information/ideas interaction interpretation introduction justify
key events logical progression of ideas logical sequence of events motive multiple meanings narrative/narrative writing observation(s) paraphrase/paraphrasing phrases plagiarism/plagiarize/plagiarizing plot point of view/viewpoint pre-write precise/concise language/word choice presentation punctuation/punctuated purpose (e.g., author's or speaker's purpose) purpose for writing (explanatory, argumentative, narrative writing) quotation(s) reference sources relationships relevant/irrelevant relevant supporting evidence resolve/resolution revise root word sensory details/language sequence of events setting shift in narrator's perspective/viewpoint skim stanza style summarize support synonym text structure (compare/contrast; cause/effect; problem/solution; pro/con) theme thesis/controlling idea tone topic transitions/transitions words/phrases/clauses trustworthy source(s) visualize voice (consistent/appropriate) website
Grade 11

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