Vocabulary Strategy

Word Wall

Purpose

* To create a display area in the classroom devoted strictly to high-frequency vocabulary that will be used or is being used during the course of a particular unit of study.
* To reinforce understanding of subject-specific terminology with a focus on students internalizing key concepts.
* To develop a growing core of words that become part of reading and writing vocabulary.
* To provide reference for students during reading and writing.
* To provide a visual map to help students remember connections between words and their meanings/contexts.
* To assess students’ knowledge and understanding of vocabulary as it relates to key concepts in a unit of study.

Directions

1. Students write a word on one side of the paper and define it in their own words (can include drawings) usually on the other side. It helps to laminate them.
2. Words selected must be useful to students, usable by students and frequently used in the subject area.
3. Select high-frequency words that are used in the context in which you expect the students to know them.
4. Word Walls should be interactive and constantly changing.
5. Use the Word Walls to reinforce learning, review key concepts and assess student knowledge during a lesson or as a ticket out the door.

Examples

<http://schools.nyc.gov/documents/elementarymath/Differentiation/Environment/vocabulary.htm>

<http://www.teachingintheearlyyears.com/2011/04/my-word-flower-word-wall.html>