

## LESSON PLANNING: PREPARING CONTENT AREA ACTIVITIES

<b>Purpose</b>	Content teachers can use this planning tool to integrate vocabulary instruction into classroom lessons across subject areas, including science, mathematics, art, social studies, and language arts.
<b>Materials</b>	<p>Quick Reference Guide: Preparing Vocabulary Activities</p> <p>For individual review:</p> <p><i>Content Area Vocabulary: Activities Packet</i></p> <p><i>Middle School Math: Vocabulary Building Lesson and Related Materials</i></p> <p><i>Greek Myths: Vocabulary Lesson, Word List, and Riddle Poems</i></p>
<b>Media</b>	<p>For individual review:</p> <p><i>Explicit Vocabulary Teaching Strategies</i>, interview with Mary Beth Curtis, Harvard University. (7:43)</p> <p><i>Greek Myths: Understanding Word Roots and Meanings</i>, multimedia presentation with teacher from Pocomoke Middle School. (4:32)</p> <p><i>Building Vocabulary in Middle School Math Class</i>, multimedia presentation with teacher from KIPP San Francisco Bay Academy. (5:52)</p> <p><i>Explicit Vocabulary Instruction for English Learners</i>, multimedia presentation with a reading specialist from Stoughton High School. (4:49)</p> <p>This tool and related media and materials are located in the Doing What Works Library (<a href="https://dwwlibrary.wested.org/">https://dwwlibrary.wested.org/</a>). For assistance, contact <a href="mailto:dww@wested.org">dww@wested.org</a>.</p>
<b>Topic</b>	Adolescent Literacy
<b>Practice</b>	Vocabulary Instruction

## Lesson Planning: Preparing Content Area Activities

Watch the interview with Mary Beth Curtis about explicit vocabulary teaching strategies and note specific strategies that can help you improve the following aspects of lesson planning and implementation:

- Preparing a lesson plan
- Teaching word meaning
- Providing practice
- Using multiple and varied contexts
- Promoting independent learning
- Assessing student learning

Use the quick reference guide to prepare vocabulary lessons and activities. It provides content area teachers with a framework for thinking about and planning lessons that integrate vocabulary strategies into curriculum lessons. The guide has a column for making notes about lesson and activity planning. Reading specialists and language arts coordinators can use this planning tool in staff training and during individual discussions or small group planning sessions with teachers.

For examples of how some content area teachers at schools featured on this website have incorporated vocabulary activities into classroom instruction, review the multimedia presentations on the middle school math and Greek mythology lessons shown in the *See How It Works* section. In addition, you may find the presentation on a vocabulary lesson for English learners useful for planning and using specific strategies.

Notice how the guide can easily be used for any subject or topic area. Think about how this tool or something similar would be helpful for integrating vocabulary instruction into your classroom.

## Quick Reference Guide

Preparing Vocabulary Activities		NOTES: Lesson and Activity Planning
<b>Prepare plan</b>		
Set goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include at least one vocabulary goal</li> </ul>	
Select new vocabulary words	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess text vocabulary load</li> <li>Select new words from text or related materials</li> </ul>	
Identify previously learned words	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review words learned in previous lessons</li> </ul>	
<b>Teach word meaning</b>		
Introduce new words	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Say the word and provide a clear explanation of its meaning</li> <li>Use student-friendly definitions</li> </ul>	
Build on prior knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ask students to share what they already know about a word</li> </ul>	
Examine word meanings in depth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Talk about multiple meanings of a word</li> <li>Compare/contrast the word with words of similar meanings</li> <li>Study synonyms and antonyms of a word</li> </ul>	
Review previously learned words	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revisit words learned in previous lessons</li> </ul>	

Preparing Vocabulary Activities		NOTES: Lesson and Activity Planning
<b>Provide practice</b>		
Allow sufficient time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set aside enough time to address word meanings</li> </ul>	
Provide repeated exposures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan many opportunities to encounter new words</li> </ul>	
Recognize informal opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take advantage of opportunities as new and previously learned words arise during a lesson</li> </ul>	
Extend practice over time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use methods such as creating a classroom word wall, assigning homework, revisiting vocabulary words during future lessons</li> </ul>	
<b>Use multiple and varied contexts</b>		
Oral activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>For example</i>, small group and cooperative activities focused on understanding and using word meanings</li> </ul>	
Written activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>For example</i>, poems, vocabulary maps, sentence challenges</li> </ul>	
Visual representations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>For example</i>, art activities, drawings, 3-D constructions</li> </ul>	
Kinesthetic activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>For example</i>, acting, mime, charades, Simon Says</li> </ul>	
Games	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>For example</i>, word sorts, riddles, matching activities</li> </ul>	

Preparing Vocabulary Activities		NOTES: Lesson and Activity Planning
<b>Promote independent learning</b>		
Model strategies for deriving word meaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Show students how to analyze semantic, syntactic, or context clues to derive word meaning</li> <li>Demonstrate the use of word structure and components (prefixes, roots, suffixes) to derive meaning</li> </ul>	
Teach independent acquisition skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use explicit instruction to help students use various strategies for determining word meaning</li> </ul>	
Provide practice opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build in time for practice in varied contexts</li> </ul>	
Offer computer-based activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use computer-based activities for individual student practice</li> </ul>	
Make classroom resources available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide a variety of text and media resources for independent practice (e.g., reference books, textbook glossaries, dictionary/thesaurus, vocabulary websites)</li> </ul>	

Preparing Vocabulary Activities		NOTES: Lesson and Activity Planning
<b>Assess student learning</b>		
Identify student learning outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determine an observable student learning outcome</li> </ul>	
Use informal monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct frequent informal checks and monitoring during the lesson</li> </ul>	
Provide varied methods for students to demonstrate understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>For example</i>, oral, written, visual, and kinesthetic opportunities</li> </ul>	
Give written assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use formal written assessment to document learning</li> </ul>	