Explicit Vocabulary Instruction Template

This graphic organizer is intended for educators to use to guide their thinking as they select vocabulary words for instruction and develop related lessons and activities. This resource is divided into five major aspects of explicit vocabulary instruction and includes guiding questions to ground your planning in evidence-based practices.

Additional Resource

For more on effective explicit vocabulary lessons, see our previous blog posts **"Attributes of Effective Explicit Vocabulary Instruction"** and **"The Importance of Word Choice in Explicit Vocabulary Instruction."**

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Lesson Objective: _____ **Standard:** _____

Word Selection: *Which words are crucial to understanding the text, supporting comprehension, applying major themes and central ideas, and/or providing children with more specific word choices for a commonly used word?*

Accurate and Student-Friendly Definition: *Does this definition capture the essential characteristics of the word in language accessible to students? Does it avoid inaccuracy caused by oversimplifying the word's meaning?*

Parameters of Use: *What parameters of use (common use, word partners, forms and prefixes) are essential to take into account to ensure that students use and apply the word accurately?*

Contextualization: *What semantic, syntactic, and pragmatic information within and outside of the text will help students access the word's meaning and result in a deeper understanding of the word?*

Active Practice: *How will this practice ensure students master both meaning and usage? Does the practice include multiple exposures to the word through varied practice?*

Adapted from District of Columbia Public Schools LEAP materials