

Semantic Feature Analysis Organizer

This chart is intended to help educators guide students through Semantic Feature Analysis (SFA). SFA helps students compare related terms and concepts based on their shared features, in turn improving their vocabulary acquisition and reading comprehension in specific content areas, such as science. Before using the chart, teachers will review assigned texts and identify key terms, adding them to the “Term” column. In the top row, teachers will write characteristics that could apply to the terms. For example, for a lesson on heat transfer, the teacher may select terms such as “conduction,” “convection,” and “radiation.” They may select characteristics such as “requires matter,” “involves particle collision,” and “involves fluid movement.” Students complete the chart by marking a “+” in a cell when a characteristic applies to the given term, and “-” when a characteristic does not apply.

Additional Resources

For more on SFA, including an example of a completed SFA chart, see [“Literacy Is Every Subject—Science”](#) by Seth King.



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		Characteristic				
Term						