

Vocabulary Challenge Game

Subject: English/Vocabulary

Grade(s): 7 and up

Overview

Put new vocabulary words into relevant context with this easy-to-play vocabulary game that is fun and challenging for students of all ages.

Objectives

Students will:

0. • Write creative definitions for unknown words and use those words in creative sentences.
0. • Determine the real definition of unknown words through context clues.

IRA/NCTE Standards for the English Language Arts

Standard 3: Students apply a wide range of strategies to comprehend, interpret, evaluate, and appreciate texts. They draw on their prior experience, their interactions with other readers and writers, their knowledge of word meaning and of other texts, their word identification strategies, and their understanding of textual features (e.g., sound-letter correspondence, sentence structure, context, graphics).

Materials Needed

0. • WordTeasers: College Prep

Background

Researchers have shown conclusively that a strong vocabulary is crucial to academic development at all ages. Now, with the addition of the essay on the SAT college entrance test, a strong vocabulary is more critical than ever. As the College Board notes, to score the highest possible essay score on the SAT essay, it is necessary to exhibit "...skillful use of language using a varied, accurate, and apt vocabulary." WordTeasers: College Prep

gives students a fun way to increase and improve their vocabulary by putting new vocabulary words into real-life context.

Activity:

Divide students into groups of three to five students for each group. Then, give each group a WordTeaser Challenge Card (or let a volunteer from each group select a card from the WordTeasers: College Prep box.) Each student in the group writes down a made-up definition for the word they have selected. Tell students to be sure to include the word function (noun, verb, adjective, for example) and definition. One member of the group writes down the real definition, as found on the back of the WordTeaser Challenge Card. Call on each group, one group at a time, to read their WordTeaser word aloud to the class and then read their definitions. Then, take a class vote to see which definition the class thinks is the real definition. After students have voted for what they think is the real definition, have one student from the group read the WordTeaser challenge using that word to the class. Then, take a vote again. Does everyone agree that the definition selected in the first vote is still the correct definition? Why or why not?

For more Teacher Lesson Plans with WordTeasers/WorldTeasers, go to www.wordteasers.com and click Teacher Resources.



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