

Language Arts Glossary

Active Listening Skills	Behaviors used to listen, attend to the person speaking, and to understand. These include, but are not limited to: facing the speaker, removing distractions, demonstrating attentiveness, asking questions, and summarizing.
Analysis	1. Level four of Blooms <i>Taxonomy of Educational Objectives</i> . 2. Separating into basic parts for detailed study. 3. The detailed examination of anything complex. 4. In literature, the study of a work through an examination of its components parts and their interrelationships.
APA	The Style manual for documenting the use of sources in researched writing that is prescribed by the American Psychological Association.
Authentic Assessment	Portfolio assessments, performance evaluators, open-ended exams, and other assessment instruments used to evaluate student performance on those work and life skills embodied in the Content Standards and Benchmarks.
Benchmarks	A statement of what all students should know and be able to do in a content area by the end of designated grades or levels. The grade groupings used for this purpose are kindergarten-grade 4; 5-grade 8, and 9-grade 12 checkpoints for evaluating progress towards achieving the content standards.
Bias	A personal belief or stance on a subject. In literature, bias is often tied to the author's point of view.
Bibliography	An alphabetical listing of ALL works consulted.
Citation Format	A formal method for recognizing the borrowing of written or spoken words form an authority, either paraphrased or directly quoted. Common formats include, but are not limited to, APA and MLA styles.
Connotation	Suggested and associated means added to the literal meaning of a word or phrase. Connotations have context- and usage-derived meanings.
Content Standards	A broad description of the knowledge and skills students should acquire in a particular subject area.
Context (ual) Clues	Cues to the meaning of an unfamiliar word that occur in the sentence(s) or paragraph(s) in which the word appears.
Criterion	An established standard by which something may be judged or examined.
Decoding	The process that a reader used to recognize new words and meaning (e.g., phonics, words patterns, structural analysis, context clues).
Deductive Reasoning	Reasoning from the general to the specific. A conclusion is shown to proceed logically from a general truth.
Denotation	The literal (dictionary) definition of a word.
Descriptive Writing	Writing that uses concrete and specific detail that appeals to one or more of the reader's five senses.

Diction	The use and choice of words in a piece of writing. Diction is also enunciation.
Edited Text	Text that has been evaluated for content and organization as opposed to evaluation of the mechanics of writing.
e.g.	<i>Exempli gratia</i> – for example (not intended to be a complete list).
Etymology	The study of word origins.
Explicit	Clearly stated, distinct, fully and clearly expressed. A literary work leaves nothing implied; everything is clearly and directly stated.
Expository Writing	A mode of writing that is informational in nature. It is used to explain, describe, or tell about something.
Figurative Language	Language enriched by word images and figures of speech; not literal in its intent but designed to make the reader take an imaginative leap to understand the author's point.
Fluency	The ability to orally read words or express ideas with clarity and ease.
Format	Specification that determine the physical appearance of a written piece (e.g., margins, typeface and size, title, subheadings).
Genre	1. a category or class of artistic endeavor having a common artistic form or content. 2. In literature, genres include the following: short story, drama, novel, fable, biography, poetry, epic.
Graphic Organizers	Visual aids (e.g., Venn diagrams, webs, K-W-L) used to arrange generated information in an orderly manner.
Graphophonics	Connecting the sound of letters or words to the shape of letters or words.
Hyperbole	1. Obvious and deliberate exaggeration. 2. A figure of speech not intended to be taken literally (She has taught English for a hundred years!)
Idioms	1. Language, dialect, jargon or style of speaking representative of a group of people. 2. Phrases or constructions with meaning different from the usual meaning of the words.
i.e.	<i>Id est</i> – that is. All examples are included in the listing.
Implicit	Not specifically stated; not expressed in direct terms; implied or inferred.
Inductive Reasoning	Reasoning from the specific to the general. A general truth is inferred from the observation of specific facts.
Inference	A judgment or conclusion based on evidence presented.
Irony	A literary technique for implying, through words, plot or character development, that the actual comments or situation is quite different from what is asserted.
Jargon	A vocabulary common to a particular field of work or group of people. For example, the language used by doctors to discuss their work is different to the language used by lawyers to discuss their work.

K-W-L	An investigative technique (what you <u>K</u> now; what you <u>W</u> ant to learn; what you <u>L</u> earn).
Literary Elements	See story elements.
Meta-cognitive	To understand how one knows or learns something. To understand the process one engages in to acquire knowledge.
MLA	The style manual for documenting the use of sources in researched writing that is prescribed by the Modern Language Association.
Narrative Writing	A rhetorical strategy. Narrative writing tells a story or part of a story.
Non-written Text	Graphics, pictures, or any visual images that are an intricate part of the message of the text. Information delivered by means other than writing (see Visual Representations).
Persuasive	A mode of writing or a spoken text, the purpose of which is to prove something to be true, credible, or worthy. Arguments may be explicit or implicit, but the purpose of a persuasive argument is to convince and audience to adopt a belief or perform a desired action.
Phoneme	The smallest part of spoken language that makes a difference in the meaning of words.
Phonemic Awareness	The ability to hear, identify, and manipulate the individual sounds -- phonemes -- in spoken words.
Phonics	The understanding that there is a predictable relationship between phonemes (the sounds of spoken language) and graphemes (the letters and spellings that represent those sounds in written language).
Primary Sources	A source of information of direct or immediate importance; first hand knowledge.
Proofread	Evaluation of the mechanics of writing.
Performance Standards (indicators)	Concrete examples and explicit definitions of what students have to know and be able to do to demonstrate that such students are proficient in the skills and knowledge framed in the content standards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • degree or quality of student performance within content standards students are expected to achieve at grades K-4, 5-8, and 9-12; and • how adept or competent a student demonstration must be to indicate attainment of the benchmarks on the way to the content standard.
Persuasion	A rhetorical strategy. Persuasion works to enlighten a reader/listener about an alternative point of view or into changing his/her opinion on a subject.
Point of View	In literature, it is the position from which the story is told. In writing, it can be first (I, we), second (you), or third (he/she/it or they).
Prefix	An affix (a letter or group of letters) that comes before a base or root word, such as <i>pro</i> at the start of <i>proclaim</i> .
Rhetorical Strategy	The strategy or plan selected to effectively deliver the intended message in a written piece of work.

Secondary Source	The sources used to support the main source. For example, magazine articles or encyclopedia entries. These sources support the main ideas of the main source, but do not show the same authority and thoroughness in discussion of a subject as primary sources.
Six Strategies for Improving Comprehension	Monitoring comprehension, using graphic and semantic organizers, answering questions, generating questions, recognizing story structure, and summarizing.
Slang	Casual language. Informal English.
Spiraling Framework	Concepts and skills introduced and acquired at a particular time continue to be reinforced and enhanced.
Standard English	The style of spoken and written English used in most schools, businesses, and government organizations in the United States. Standard English varies geographically and culturally, but maintains a fairly uniform grammatical structure.
Story Elements	Character, plot, theme, setting, conflict.
Summarize	1. To draw together main ideas in a brief, but comprehensive form. 2. To tell the main points briefly.
Synthesis	1. The fifth level of <i>Bloom's Taxonomy of Educational Objectives</i> . 2. The combining of elements into a single unified whole. 3. The formation of a novel thought, idea, product or perspective from pieces of information.
Technical Writing	Writing for the purpose of communicating scientific or technical information or instructions to a specific audience.
Text	A written, printed document.
Thesis Statement	The main point or argument of which and author or speaker tries to convince and audience through writing or speech.
Visual Representation	1. visual aid. 2 text aid. 3. pictures, maps, illustrations, etc., which enhance, clarify, or convey meaning.
Vocabulary	A list or collection of words and definitions, or the language used by a specific group.
Writing Process	Prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, publishing.
Works/Sources Cited	Alphabetical listing of bibliographic entries of resources actually consulted in the preparation of a researched paper or project.