



The Key Vocabulary Routine

Description: This instructional routine teaches students vocabulary and vocabulary learning strategies in any subject area. During professional development, educators learn how to teach vocabulary using existing content reading and instructional materials. Adoption of *The Key Vocabulary Routine* across multiple grade levels in a school or district provides students a consistent approach to vocabulary instruction as they move from grade to grade and subject to subject. The routine incorporates a combination of direct and indirect instructional practices that have been identified consistently in the research as most effective for growing student vocabulary, and are highly aligned with Common Core literacy standards.

Instructional practices in *The Key Vocabulary Routine* address these topics, strategies, and skills:

- Activities for previewing vocabulary before reading
- Four activities for teaching words by relating them to background knowledge and related words (categorizing, semantic mapping, semantic feature analysis, scaling)
- Selecting specific words from content to teach in-depth
- Using vocabulary templates to learn everything about a word (Fruyer, Concept Definition Map, two-column notes)
- Generating user-friendly definitions
- Teaching use of context to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words
- Using word parts (roots, prefixes, suffixes) to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words
- Promoting word consciousness in the classroom

Who Should Participate: Grades K-5 elementary teachers, grades 6-12 content classroom teachers, educators who provide support to struggling readers, literacy specialists and coaches, and grades K-12 administrators for these teachers.

For more information, please contact:

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