

# Games to Play with the Academic Vocabulary of the SBAC

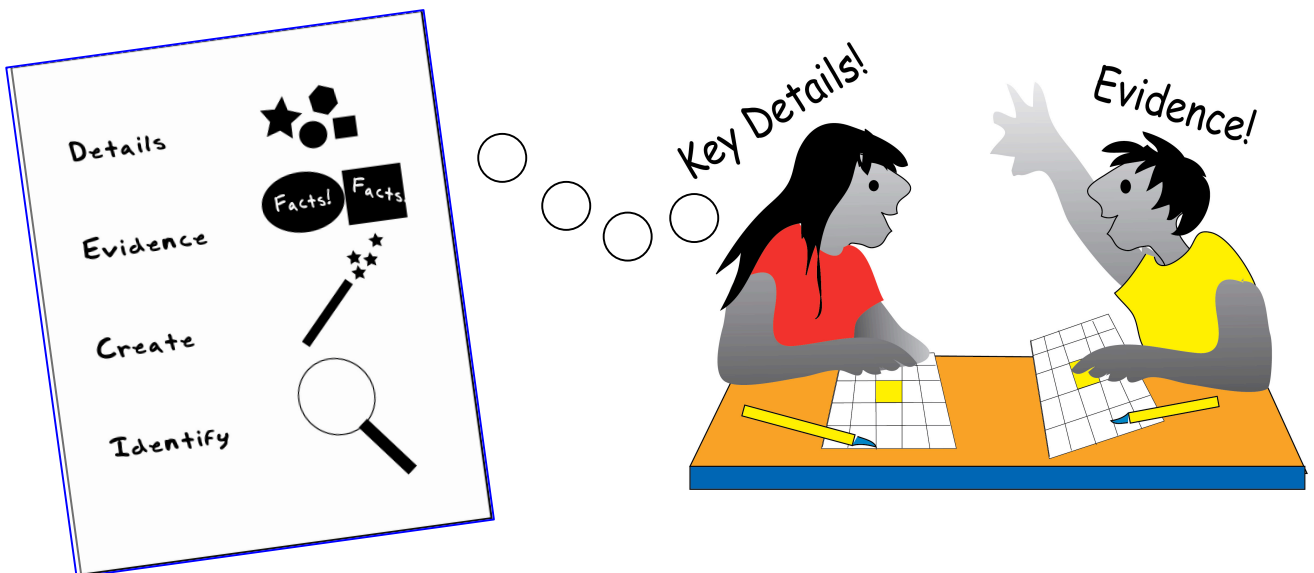
These word games provide a fun-filled way to review the essential terms relating to each grade level's CAASPP testing language in sample tests from SBAC/CAASPP. When students are enjoying themselves learning is accelerated and attitude towards preparing for the SBAC assessments is improved. Not to mention, while students are reviewing the terms on lists they are attaining fluency and automaticity with decoding and understanding the words themselves as they scan for the right word.



**There is a list of ELA words from SBAC at the end of this handout. In addition, there are lists of SBAC academic language words by grade level for ELA on our website: [www.knoxeducation.com/test-prep](http://www.knoxeducation.com/test-prep) under "Academic Language."**

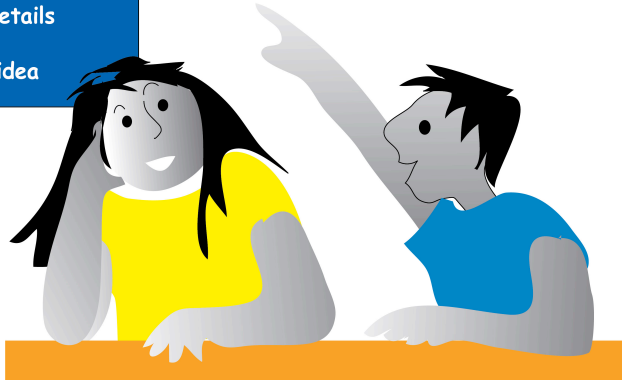
## **BEFORE you play these games:**

1. Make sure the students have learned the meaning of the words during your regular instruction. Build the habit of having the students box key terms on test items, or worksheets. Use them during class note-taking, post them during teaching and on your daily schedule. You may want them to keep a running list of academic terms for their grade level in their standards check-off folders.
2. Create a randomized list of 10-30 ELA words for each time you play a game. Ask students to draw picture icons and/or list words or phrases defining each word on their game list before they begin playing. This makes a good partner activity to increase ways of interacting with the words and discussing the meanings.



# Race to the Top!

conclusion  
apply  
determine  
key details  
main idea



**Students can play this rapid-fire game in pairs or as a small group.**

**List about 5 terms on a chart or on the white board behind the players.**

**Have one player turn so that he/she cannot see the words.**

**The player's partner then starts at the bottom of the list and gives clues for what each word means until the player guesses the word.**

**The first team to get all of the words correct wins a point.**

## **BEFORE you play:**

Provide students with the list of terms you are going to be selecting from. This is a great activity to motivate students to review before an assessment. Focus the group of terms on an area of the curriculum, for example you may say:

**"Today we are playing with terms from "informative reading and writing."**

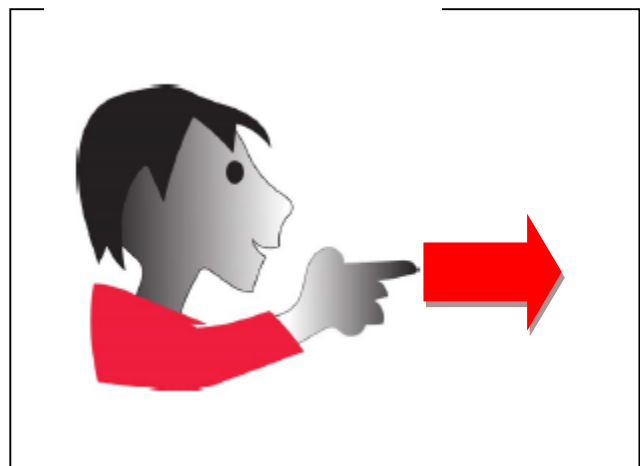
Then have the students list these words and their definitions on paper to get ready to play. Or you can type a list of words to play with and give students time to study before the game starts. They should add their own definitions, clues, and pictures so that when they are playing they'll have their ideas at the ready.

# Pictionary!

1. Provide students with a list of SBAC assessment words ahead of time.
2. Have them get ready to play by drawing icons or pictures to go with each word.
3. Let students work in pairs or small groups to get ideas from each other for the graphics.
4. Write the words from the list you are playing with on cards and place in a basket.
5. Have each team that is playing elect an artist to start. The artist comes up to the basket, selects a word, and then has a moment or two to think about how they will draw that word. You may also provide help if the student is stuck for an idea. They can bring their prepared sheet of words with them as well.
6. Start a timer and have the student start drawing the word.
7. Team mates try to guess which word it is and write the word on their whiteboards to check.
8. Stop the timer when a team member gets the word.
9. You can make it harder by insisting that every team member write the word *before* the timer is stopped.
10. Keep track of the time needed to guess the word for each team. **The team that uses the least amount of time for a given set of words wins.**
11. Rotate artists after each word and take turns back and forth between the teams.



Details



Determine

# More Games to Play with SBAC Word Lists

## Matching Definitions:

Divvy out 1-3 words per student, have them write the word clearly on one index card and a simple definition + picture if possible on another. Have students use these cards to walk around and match up words and definitions with their classmates. You could also use the pairs of cards for playing concentration.

## Crossword Puzzles:

Here are a couple of websites that will let you create crossword puzzles. You may be able to get older students to create these for younger students based on the definitions they write up. I would AVOID USING WORD SEARCHES EXCEPT WITH SPELLING ACTIVITIES--these do not encourage the student to think about the meanings of words. The students are just looking for spelling patterns.

<http://www.puzzle-maker.com/CW/index.htm>  
<http://thinks.com/webguide/crosswords.htm>

## Guess My Group:

Pass out a list of academic terms that is not organized in any particular order. List 3 or more terms on the white board and ask students to work in teams to figure out what the words share in common with each other. For example you may list: *period, comma, apostrophe, quotation mark* (punctuation marks). Have each team or pair write the category on a white board and display all team responses at the same time. Teams with correct responses get a point. Teams may get additional points by adding another term that can fit the category. For example, to the above list they may add *exclamation point*. Review each term and why it fits in that category after each cycle. There will be varied responses to this. You can decide to give a point or not, to the responses. For example, "about writing" may be too general when you were looking for "terms that explain how to revise." You can also have students create their own lists of words that go together in a category and have the class guess their intended category. Finally, you could provide a randomized list and a number of given categories and have students sort the words under the categories you determine.

## Link Words:

Have student choose two terms that are related from the list. They write one on one side of their white board, the other on the other side and indicate in the middle how they are related. For example *adverb and adjective* are parts of speech that describe another word.

## Jeopardy:

There are many templates available for creating jeopardy games on-line. You can also just use the index cards the students created for the matching definitions game above in a pocket chart.

<http://www.techteachers.com/jeopardytemplates.htm>  
<http://teach.fcps.net/trt10/PowerPoint.htm>

## Bingo:

Have students make a game board with the terms. You give the definition and students have to find the word on their board. .

<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>Meaning</b>	<b>Flashback</b>
<b>Setting</b>	<b>Sources</b>	<b>Main idea</b>
<b>Transition</b>	<b>Narrative</b>	<b>Timeline</b>

# English/Language Arts

Abc...



The Word	Your Definition (What does the word mean?)	Your picture or symbol to help you remember

## SmarterBalanced Construct Relevant Vocabulary for English Language Arts and Literacy

Knox Education reformatted from ELA\_Construct\_Relevant\_Vocabulary at SBAC.com

June 2015

### Construct Relevant Vocabulary for English Language Arts: Introduction

“Construct relevant vocabulary” refers to any English language arts term that students should know because it is essential to the construct of English language arts. As such, these terms should be part of instruction.

These are words that may appear in assessment stems or options on the ELA Smarter Balanced Assessment even though the EDL might identify these terms as above grade level for general use. Because these terms are part of instruction in the ELA classroom they are considered construct relevant and thus allowable for this use.

The following list of “construct relevant vocabulary” was compiled by the Smarter Balanced ELA Team Leads. This list

- is **not** intended to be a default vocabulary curriculum; instead, the list of terms is intended as an instructional resource to ensure that teachers remember to embed these terms into their instruction.
- includes words that will not be glossed.
- is a working document. It is neither “finished” nor is it all-inclusive.

Note: Some words are not repeated in subsequent grades because it is assumed students are familiar with them because they have been part of ELA instruction in previous grades.

# Grade 3

affix  
antonym  
article/magazine article/  
newspaper article  
audience (as in writer's  
audience)  
author  
capitals/capitalization  
central idea  
character(s)  
character's actions  
characters' relationships  
clear language  
conclude/conclusion  
conclusion drawn/drawing a  
conclusion  
connect ideas (transitions in  
writing)  
convince/convincing (in opinion  
writing)  
definition  
describe/description/descriptive  
details/realistic details  
develop ideas (evidence/  
elaboration)  
dialogue  
dictionary/dictionary entry  
draft  
edit  
encyclopedia  
errors  
event  
examples  
explain  
facts  
flashback  
global notes  
grammar usage  
heading  
illustration  
imaginary  
infer/inference(s)/  
inference(s) made  
inform  
information  
informational paper/  
informational article  
Internet  
introduce setting/  
characters/problems (writing)  
introduction  
key details  
lesson/moral  
main character  
main idea  
meaning  
mental picture (writing)  
message (e.g., author's  
message)  
narrator  
notes  
opening (beginning)  
opinion/agree/disagree  
opposite  
order of events  
organize(d)/organization of  
ideas  
paragraph  
passage  
phrase  
plot  
point of view  
pre-writing  
presentation (listening stimulus)  
punctuation/punctuated  
purpose for writing  
opinion, narrative writing)  
quotation/direct quotations/  
quoting directly  
reason(s)  
relationship  
report  
research  
research report  
revise  
root word  
sentence/pair of sentences/set  
of sentences/line  
setting  
similar  
skim  
source(s)  
speaker (used in listening items)  
specific word choice  
spell check  
spelling errors  
stanza  
support/supporting details  
synonym  
title  
topic  
trustworthy source  
underlined  
verb(s)/verb tense

# Grade 4

account  
adjectives  
affix  
antonym  
appropriate information  
article/magazine article/newspaper  
article  
audience (as in writer's audience)  
author  
author's message  
author's point of view  
blog  
capitals/capitalization  
central idea  
characters  
character's actions  
characters' relationships  
chart/graph/diagram/table  
clear language  
comma  
compare/contrast  
conclude/conclusion/  
concluding statement  
conclusion drawn/drawing a  
conclusion  
conflict  
connect ideas (transitions in  
convince  
definition(s)  
describe/description/descriptive  
details/realistic details  
develop ideas (evidence/  
elaboration)  
dialogue  
dictionary/dictionary entry  
draft  
edit  
encyclopedia  
errors  
event  
evidence  
example  
explain  
flashback  
global notes  
grammar usage  
heading  
imaginary  
infer/inference(s)/  
inference(s) made  
inform  
information  
informational paper/  
informational articles  
Internet  
introduction  
key details  
key events  
key idea  
main characters  
main idea  
main problem  
meaning  
mental picture (writing)  
narrative (story)  
narrator  
notes  
opening (beginning)  
opinion(s)/agree/disagree  
opposite  
order of events  
organize(d)/organization of ideas  
paragraph  
passage  
phrase  
plot  
poem  
point of view/view (point)  
pre-writing  
presentation (listening stimulus)  
punctuation/punctuated  
purpose (e.g., author's or speaker's  
purpose)  
purpose for writing (informative,  
opinion, narrative writing)  
quotes/quotation/direct  
quotations/quoting directly/  
quotation marks  
reason(s)  
relationship  
report  
research  
research question  
research report  
revise  
root word  
section  
sensory details/language  
sentences/set of  
sentences/line/statement  
setting  
similar  
skim  
sources  
speaker  
specific/exact word(s)/  
word choice(s)/language  
spell check  
spelling errors  
stanza  
summary/summarize(s)  
supporting details/evidence/  
reasons  
synonym  
theme  
timeline  
title  
topic  
transitions  
trustworthy source  
underline  
verb/tense shift  
webpage/website  
writer's message



# Grade 5

affix antonym	first	sensory
appropriate information	paragraph	details/language setting
article	focus	similar
audience (as in writer's audience)	global notes	skim
author	grammar usage	source(s)
author's message	headings	speaker
author's point of view	imaginary	specific/exact word (s)/
blog	infer/inference(s)/	word choice(s)/information
capitals/capitalization	inference(s) made	spell check
cause/effect	inform	spelling errors
central idea	informational	stanza
characters	paper/informational article	statement/sentence/set of
character's actions	Internet	sentences/pair of sentences/line
characters' relationships	introduction	summary/summarize(s)
chart/graph/diagram/table	key detail(s)	supporting evidence/reasons
clear language	key events	synonym
comma(s)	key point	theme
compare/contrast	main idea	thesaurus
conclude/conclusion/	main problem	timeline
concluding statement	meaning	title
conclusion drawn/drawing a	mental picture (writing)	topic
conclusion	narrative	transition words/phrases
concrete details	narrator	trustworthy source(s)
conflict	notes	verbs/verb tense/shifts
connect ideas - (transitions in	opinion(s)/agree/disagree	webpage/website
writing)	opposite	
convince	organize(d)/organization of ideas	
create	paragraph	
definition(s)	passage	
describe/description/descriptive	phrase	
details/ realistic details	plot	
determine	point of view/view (point)	
develop ideas (evidence/	pre-write	
elaboration)	presentation	
dialogue	punctuation/punctuated	
dictionary entry	purpose (e.g., author's or	
draft	speaker's purpose)	
edit	purpose for writing (informative,	
effect	opinion, narrative writing)	
effective beginning /ending	quotations/direct quotations/	
elaborate/elaboration of ideas	quoting directly/quotation marks	
errors	reasons	
essay	relationship	
event	report	
evidence	research	
example	research question	
explain	research report	
	revise	
	root word	

## GRADE 6

accurate/inaccurate information	flashback	resolve/resolution
affix	focus	revise
analysis	global notes	root word
antonym	grammar usage	sensory language/details
appropriate information	heading	sequence of events
argument	imaginary	setting
argumentative article/text/essay	inclusion	skim
audience (as in writer's audience)	infer/inference(s)/	source(s)
author's intent	inference(s) made	stanza
author's message	integrate information/ideas	style
author's point of view	interaction	summarize
blog	interpretation	support
capitalization	introduction	synonym
central idea	justify	text structures
character's action/	key detail	(compare/contrast; cause
characters' relationship/	key event	problem/solution; pro/con)
characters' interaction	logical progression of ideas	theme
claim	logical sequence of events	thesis/controlling idea
closure	mental picture (writing)	title
compare/contrast	multi-paragraph	tone
comparison	multiple meanings	topic
conclude/conclusion	narrative/narrative writing	transitions/transition words/
conclusion drawn	narrator	phrases
concrete/specific/	observation	trustworthy source(s)
realistic details	opinion	visualize
conflict/tension	organize/organization	website
connections/relationships	paraphrase/paraphrasing	
between ideas (transitions in	phrase	
writing)	plagiarism/plagiarize/	
contradict	plagiarizing	
controlling idea/thesis	plot	
conventions	point of view/viewpoint	
credible sources	pre-write	
describe/description	precise/specific language	
develop ideas (evidence/	presentation	
elaboration)	punctuation/punctuated	
dialogue	purpose (e.g., author's or	
draft	speaker's purpose)	
edit	purpose for writing (explanatory,	
editorial	argumentative, narrative writing)	
effective beginnings/endings	quotation/quoting	
elaborate/elaboration of ideas	reference/identify sources	
essay	relationship	
establish a claim	relevant	
evidence	relevant supporting evidence/	
example	reasons/details/information	
excerpt	represent	
explanatory article/text/	research	
essay/writing	research question	

# Grade 7

accurate/inaccurate information/  
accuracy of information  
acknowledge/address opposing  
viewpoint/counterclaims  
address potential  
counterarguments/opposing  
claims  
affix  
analysis  
antonym  
argument  
argumentative text/article/  
essay/writing  
audience (as in writer's audience)  
author's intent  
author's message  
author's point of view  
author's purpose  
blog  
capitalization  
central idea  
character's action/  
characters' interaction/  
characters' relationships  
claim  
compare/contrast  
comparison  
conclude/conclusion  
conclusion drawn  
concrete details/words/  
phrases/language  
conflict/tension  
context  
contradict  
controlling idea/thesis  
conventions  
counterargument  
counterclaim  
credible  
definition  
develop ideas (evidence/  
elaboration)  
dialogue  
draft  
edit  
editorial  
elaborate/elaboration of ideas  
essay  
establish a claim  
evidence

excerpt  
explanatory article/text/  
essay/writing  
flashback  
focus  
global notes  
grammar usage  
heading  
illustrate  
inclusion  
infer/inference(s)/  
inference(s) made  
integrate information/ideas  
interaction  
interpretation  
introduction  
justify  
key events  
logical progression of ideas  
logical sequence of events  
mental picture/image  
multi-paragraph  
multiple meanings  
narrative/narrative writing  
observation  
organize/organization of ideas  
paraphrase/paraphrasing  
phrase  
plagiarism/plagiarize/plagiarizing  
plot  
point of view/viewpoint  
pre-write  
precise/concise language  
presentation  
punctuation/punctuated  
purpose (e.g., author's or  
speaker's purpose)  
purpose for writing (explanatory,  
argumentative, narrative writing)  
quotation(s)/quoting  
reference/identify sources  
relationship(s)  
relevant  
relevant supporting evidence  
research  
research question  
resolve/resolution  
revise  
root word  
sensory language/details

sequence of events  
setting  
skim  
source(s)  
stanza  
style  
summarize  
support  
synonym  
text structure  
cause/effect; problem/solution;  
pro/con)  
theme  
thesis/controlling idea  
tone  
topic  
transitions/transition words/  
phrases  
trustworthy source(s)  
visualize  
website

## GRADE 8

accurate/inaccurate information/ accuracy of information	evidence	sequence of events
acknowledge/address opposing viewpoint/counterclaims	excerpt	setting
address potential	explanatory article/text/ essay/writing	shift in narrator's perspective/ point of view
counterarguments/opposing claims	flashback	skim
affix	focus	stanza
analysis	global notes	style
antonym	grammar usage	summarize
argument	heading	support
argumentative text/essay	illustrate	synonym
audience (as in writer's audience)	inclusion	text structure
author's intent	infer/inference(s)/ inference(s) made	cause/effect; problem/solution; pro/con)
author's message	integrate information/ideas	theme
author's point of view	interaction	thesis/controlling idea
author's purpose	interpretation	tone
blog	introduction	topic
capitalization	justify	transitions/transition
central idea	key events	words/phrases/clauses
character's action/ characters' interaction/ characters' relationships	logical progression of ideas	trustworthy source(s)
claim	logical sequence of events	visualize
clarify claim/counterclaim	motive	voice (consistent/appropriate)
clause	multiple meanings	website
compare/contrast	narrative/narrative writing	
comparison	observation(s)	
conclude/conclusion	paraphrase/paraphrasing	
conclusion drawn	phrases	
concrete details/words/phrases/ language	plagiarism/plagiarize/ plagiarizing	
conflict/tension	plot	
context	point of view/viewpoint	
contradict	pre-write	
controlling idea/thesis	precise/concise language/ word choice	
conventions	presentation	
counterargument	punctuation/punctuated	
counterclaim	purpose (e.g., author's or speaker's purpose)	
credible	purpose for writing (explanatory, argumentative, narrative writing)	
develop ideas (evidence/ elaboration)	quotation(s)	
dialogue	reference sources	
draft	relationships	
edit	relevant/irrelevant	
editorial	relevant supporting evidence	
elaborate/elaboration of ideas	resolve/resolution	
essay	revise	
establish a claim	root word	
	sensory details/language	