

KEY Words: Language That Opens Doors for All Students
(TEACHER EDITION)

Analyze

break something down into its parts in order to understand how it is made, what it is, how it works

Compare

identify similarities between two or more items in order to understand how they are alike, equal, or analogous

Contrast

describe the differences between two or more items in order to understand how they contribute to meaning, quality, or effect

Describe

report what one observes or does in order to capture and convey to others a process, impression, or a sequence of events in a narrative

Evaluate

determine the value, amount, importance, or quality of something in order to understand if it matters or means something

Explain

provide reasons for what happened or one's actions in order to clarify, justify, or define those events, actions, causes or effects

Formulate

reduce an idea or process to a statement, equation, or model in order to invent, create, or express something

Infer

combine what you know with what you learn in order to draw a conclusion about what texts, actions, images, or events mean

Predict

describe what will happen next in a text, during an experiment or a process in order to engage with and understand it

Summarize

retell the essential details of what happened, what someone did or said, in order to better understand and remember it

Support

offer evidence, examples, details, or data in order to illustrate or bolster your position, claim, or conclusion

Trace

locate and follow the steps in a process or line of reasoning in order to understand the origins of a position, the cause of some effect, or source of an idea

THE A-LIST: Essential Academic Words

Created by Jim Burke

1	Analyze break down • deconstruct • examine	break something down methodically into its parts to understand how it is made, what it is, how it works; look at something critically in order to grasp its essence
2	Argue claim • persuade • propose	provide reasons or evidence in order to support or oppose something; persuade another by reason or evidence; contend or maintain that something is true
3	Compare/Contrast delineate • differentiate • distinguish	identify similarities or differences between two or more items in order to understand how they are alike, equal, or analogous to each other
4	Describe illustrate • report • represent	report what one observes or does in order to capture and convey to others a process, impression, or a sequence of events in a narrative
5	Determine establish • identify • resolve	consider all possible options, perspectives, results, or answers in order to arrive at a decision; provide guidance by establishing what is most important or relevant
6	Develop formulate • generate • elaborate	improve the quality or substance of; extend or elaborate upon an idea in order to give it greater form; add more complexity or strength to an idea, position, or process
7	Evaluate assess • figure out • gauge	determine the value, amount, importance, or effectiveness of something in order to understand if it matters or means something
8	Explain clarify • demonstrate • discuss	provide reasons for what happened or for one's actions in order to clarify, justify, or define those events, actions, causes or effects
9	Imagine anticipate • hypothesize • predict	form a picture of in one's mind; speculate or predict what might happen under certain conditions; envision a range of possible outcomes, obstacles, or opportunities
10	Integrate combine • incorporate • synthesize	make whole by combining the different parts into one; join or make something part of a larger unit; synthesize many disparate parts into one form
11	Interpret conclude • infer • translate	draw from a text, data set, information or artwork some meaning or significance; make inferences or draw conclusions about what an act, text, or event means
12	Organize arrange • classify • form	arrange or put in order according to some guiding principle; impose coherence, order, structure, or function according to type, traits, or other quality
13	Summarize outline • paraphrase • report	retell the essential details of what happened, what someone did or said, in order to better understand and remember it; outline key details in accessible language
14	Support cite • justify • maintain	offer evidence, examples, details, or data in order to illustrate or bolster your claim or conclusion; cite those sources of information that justify your position
15	Transform alter • change • convert	change in form, function, or nature in order to reveal or emphasize something; convert data from one form into another; alter something through a process

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2	Argue claim • persuade • propose	provide reasons or evidence to support or oppose
3	Compare/Contrast delineate • differentiate • distinguish	identify similarities or differences between items
4	Describe illustrate • report • represent	report what one observes or does
5	Determine establish • identify • resolve	consider all possible options, perspectives, results
6	Develop formulate • generate • elaborate	improve the quality or substance of
7	Evaluate assess • figure out • gauge	establish value, amount, importance, or effectiveness
8	Explain clarify • demonstrate • discuss	provide reasons for what happened or for one's actions
9	Imagine anticipate • hypothesize • predict	form a picture in one's mind; speculate or predict
10	Integrate combine • incorporate • synthesize	make whole by combining the different parts into one
11	Interpret conclude • infer • translate	draw from a text or data set some meaning or significance
12	Organize arrange • classify • form	arrange or put in order
13	Summarize outline • paraphrase • report	retell the essential details of what happened
14	Support cite • justify • maintain	offer evidence or data in order to illustrate your point
15	Transform alter • change • convert	change in form, function, or nature to reveal or emphasize