Vocabulary Guideline Sheet

Read the passage for today’s assignment. As you read, make a list in your notebook of words you may be unfamiliar with—words you either don’t know or words you’ve heard but haven’t used yourself. Make a notation about where you found each word (which paragraph number).

As a class, we will choose 8-10 words. Then, we will work in our groups to use one or more of the following strategies to help us better understand the words.

**Morphemes, Prefixes, and Suffixes: Using the Parts You Have**

Try breaking the word apart. Of what other words does the target word remind you?

**-EXAMPLE**: telegram

Tele - gram

Using these parts, come up with your own definition for the word.

I know “tele” begins “telephone” and roughly means cable. “Gram” means note. So a telegram is like a “cable note”—a note or message sent across a wire from one place to another.

**Context Clues: They Say You Are Known By Those With Whom You Associate**

Look at how the word is used in its paragraph. What part of speech is it filling? Is it a verb? An adjective? Is it describing something else in the sentence? Do the other words help you figure out what this word means?

-**EXAMPLE**: “The **vacant** stare and the look of terror that had followed it went from her eyes. They stayed keen and bright.”

If her eyes looked **vacant** before, but are now bright and focused, then perhaps **vacant** means empty or unfocused…

**“Webster It”**

Next, find the actual definition of the word in a dictionary (print or online). What part of speech is the word? A verb? Noun? Adjective? Other? How else could the word be used?

**Research It**

Find an example of your word used in a sentence. Find a sentence for each part of speech represented by the word. For example, if your word is a verb and a noun, find a sentence in which the word is used as a verb, and another where it is used as a noun. Be sure to add these sentences to your notes for the word! This will help you learn how to use the word correctly.

**Try It!!**

Write your own sentence using the word.

Then, we are going to try a writing sprint—a quick writing where you practice using the words you have learned. Write as many words as you can (in paragraph form) in the following time limits:

\*1 minute—use at least one vocabulary word

\*2 minutes—use at least two vocabulary words

\*3 minutes—use at least three vocabulary words

Count up the number of words you used total. How many of the vocabulary words did you use?