

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? **Make a list of other forms of the word (-ed; -ious; -ing; -ly; etc.) and label which part of speech the word belongs to in each of these forms.**

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?