

Speaking and Listening Standards 2 & 3
Academic Vocabulary
Grades 6-8

Academic Vocabulary	Definition	6 th	7 th	8 th
Speaker (n)	Persona/voice of the ideas within a text	✓	✓	✓
Interpret (v)	To explain the meaning of	✓		
Analyze (v)	To break something down into parts		✓	✓
Distinguish (v)	To set apart	✓		
Evaluate (v)	To find value, judge		✓	✓
Claim (n)	An idea that is put forward for discussion	✓	✓	✓
Delineate (Trace) (v)	To describe in detail / outline; follow the course of	✓	✓	✓
Explain (v)	To make plain / define	✓	✓	
Clarify (v)	To make clear, to make understandable		✓	
Identify (v)	To find, point out			✓
“Attitude” (n)***	Author's tone; emotional response to subject			
Evidence (n)	Knowledge upon which to base a belief	✓	✓	✓
Motive (n)	The goal, objective of the author's text, prompts author's text			✓
Contribute (v)	To give to, add to purpose or argument	✓		
Relevance (n) relevant (adj)	Being applicable and/or appropriate		✓	✓
Sufficient (adj)	Adequate, enough		✓	✓
Soundness (n)	Of good judgment, with reliable evidence, and valid reasoning		✓	✓
Reasoning (n)/Reason (v)	A statement of explanation or belief; to think out an idea logically	✓	✓	✓
Purpose (n)	Goals, objectives			✓
Diverse (adj)	Different kinds, forms	✓	✓	✓
Format (n)	The general physical appearance of a text	✓	✓	✓
Argument (n)	A reason or set of reasons something is true	✓	✓	✓
Main Idea (central) (n)	Most important point the author makes		✓	
Supporting Idea (details) (n)	Isolated, specific facts used to explain, define, or prove a claim		✓	
Issue (n)	A point in question, dispute or discussion	✓	✓	
Most/best/likely***	<i>At teacher's discretion</i>	✓	✓	✓

Definitions taken from M. Spenser and R. Marzano

*** Assessment Language for S & L Standards