

Unit 3: Academic Language

10 Class Meetings

Updated 2026

Essential Questions

- What is the relationship between my knowledge of language structure and my ability to read and write?
- How can I use academic language to deepen my understanding of content in the English language?

Enduring Understandings with Unit Goals

EU 1: Knowing the etymology of high-frequency academic words will help improve my English proficiency

- Recognize and apply Tier 1 words
- Recognize and apply Tier 2 high-frequency words

EU2: Applying and understanding academic language will allow me to engage in higher-level thinking skills

- Recognize and apply Tier 3 SBAC related vocabulary

Standards

- 6-8.1 Construct meaning from oral presentations and literary and informational text through grade-appropriate listening, reading, and viewing
- 6-8.2. Participate in grade-appropriate oral and written exchanges of information, ideas, and analyses, responding to peer, audience, or reader comments and questions
- 6-8.3. Speak and write about grade-appropriate complex literary and informational texts and topics
- 6-8.4. Construct grade-appropriate oral and written claims and support them reasoning and evidence
- 6-8.5. Conduct research and evaluate and communicate findings to answer questions or solve problems
- 6-8.6 Analyze and critique the arguments of others orally and in writing
- 6-8.10. Make accurate use of standard English to communicate in grade-appropriate speech and writing

Unit 3: Academic Language

10 Class Meetings

Updated 2026

ISAAC Vision of the Graduate Competencies

Competency 1: Write effectively for a variety of purposes.

Competency 2: Speak to diverse audiences in an accountable manner.

Competency 3: Develop the behaviors needed to interact and contribute with others on a team.

Competency 4: Analyze and solve problems independently and collaboratively.

Competency 5: Be responsible, creative, and empathetic members of the community.

Unit 3: Academic Language

10 Class Meetings

Updated 2026

Unit Content Overview

Marzano's 6 Ways for Building Academic Language

Idioms

Compound words

Morphemes

Key Terms: morphemes, idioms, academic language, SBAC related vocabulary, roots, affixes, concrete, abstract

Vocabulary: pattern, cognate, frequency, pronunciation, target, colloquialism

Interdisciplinary Connection:

- Language Arts
- Spanish
- Humanities

Daily Learning Objectives with *Do Now Activities*

Students will be able to...

- Define academic language and provide examples
- Classify affixes that apply to academic language
- Distinguish abstract, concrete, and collective words*
- Formulate description and provide detail of SBAC academic vocabulary *
- Contrast and compare synonyms and antonyms*
- Illustrate the academic vocabulary*

Unit 3: Academic Language

10 Class Meetings

Updated 2026

Instructional Strategies/Differentiated Instruction

- Word Walls
- Key Vocabulary
- Marzano's Six Strategies for Teaching Academic Language
- Frayer Model
- Morphology Instruction (teaching roots, prefixes, and suffixes)
- Context Clues Practice (using sentence-level meaning to infer unfamiliar words)
- Reading Comprehension and Access:
 - Pre-reading Strategies
 - Leveled Readings
 - Chunking Text
 - Audiobooks
- Annotation Strategies (highlighting, margin notes, and symbols for comprehension)
- Instructional Strategies:
 - Think, Write, Pair, Share (TWPS)
 - Explicit Modeling
- Culturally Responsive Teaching
- Graphic Organizers
- Strategic Grouping
- Non-verbal Assessments
- Sentence Frames and Starters (helpful for English learners)
- Choice Boards (students select from a variety of task options)
- Exit Tickets (quick formative assessments at the end of a lesson)
- Student Self-assessment and Reflection

Assessments

Unit Task Name: Academic Language Project

Description: This performance task gives students a chance to demonstrate their application of what they have learned in **EU 1:** Knowing the etymology of high-frequency academic words will help improve my English proficiency, **EU2:** Applying and understanding academic language will allow me to engage in higher-level thinking skills. Students will be given choice to complete the following:

A Google slide presentation utilizing specific SBAC-related skills

Students will work collaboratively with peers and share final projects with their respective classes. _

Unit 3: Academic Language

10 Class Meetings

Updated 2026



Unit 3: Academic Language

10 Class Meetings

Updated 2026

Unit Resources	
• Visuals • Marzano's 6 step process • Vocabulary Journals • Graphic organizers • Guest speaker • Journals • Websites	