

Word → Talk → Write

A 10-minute routine for any classroom. No home-language knowledge required.

10
MIN

1

2 MIN

Pick 3–5 Words

Post key academic words with a quick sketch. English-only is fine.

2

1 MIN

Ask, Don't Teach

"Does this sound like a word in your language?" Students add it to their own glossary.

3

4 MIN

Talk

Partners answer one text-based question using a posted sentence frame.

4

3 MIN

Write

Students write the same answer with the frame and one new word.

Integrate It Across Content Areas

Same 4 steps. Swap in your words and frame.

ELA	infer, conflict, evidence	"At first ____, but by the end ____ because ____."
Math	compare, estimate, equivalent	"I compared ____ and _____. ____ works better because ____."
Science	predict, observe, conclude	"I predicted _____. I observed _____. I can conclude ____."
Social Studies	cause, effect, community	"One cause of ____ was _____. As a result, ____."
Art, Music, PE	notice, create, technique	"I notice _____. This shows ____ because ____."

You Might Be Thinking...

"I don't speak their language." You don't have to. You ask; students make the connection.

"We don't have bilingual word walls." An English word bank with visuals works. Home-language words go in students' own glossaries.

"Their language has few cognates." Ask "How would you say this?" or have students sketch it. Immersive Reader can help.

"I don't have time." It replaces vocabulary and discussion you already do. It doesn't add a task.

CO-TEACHING CORNER

Invite your ENL teacher in to make this a seamless, shared routine.

Content Teacher

Picks the text, words and question.

ENL Teacher

Models the frame; coaches talk and writing.

Plan in 5 minutes: Content Objective → Language Objective → Linguistic Demands → Scaffolds → Co-Teaching Model.

Teaching solo? It works just as well on your own.

How This Connects to WIDA ACCESS

Our new English language proficiency test · Feb. 1 – Apr. 9

Listening

Read-alouds and partner talk build listening skills.

Reading

Pre-taught academic words unlock content texts.

Speaking

Frames build full, academic answers, as students will give into the mic.

Writing

Talk first, then write for longer, clearer responses.

WIDA ACCESS is an assessment tool, not a curriculum. We don't teach to the test. This routine already builds the academic English it measures.

Give It a 10-Minute Try. Implement it in a lesson you're already teaching this week.