



# TOOLBOX OF IDEAS

## Vocabulary Frame

A vocabulary frame is a method for learning new language. It is used to introduce new concepts and words that have come up in the reading.

### Using this tool in Communication Arts and Literature Content

This strategy can be used in Language Arts classrooms regularly. It is a good way to reinforce understanding of the concepts in the reading or activity. This can be used to teach more than one kind of learner incorporating illustrations, non-examples and direct definitions.

### To Create a Vocabulary Frame

- In the Center: Write the word
- Top Right Corner: Write the word's definition
- Top Left Corner: Write the word's opposite (or non-example) and cross it out
- Lower Right Corner: Draw a graphic to help the student picture the concept
- Lower Left Corner: Write a sentence that uses *the definition* of the word

### The Advantages of a Vocabulary Frame

- Targets all learners
- By having students create it, reinforces concepts
- Assess what vocabulary is difficult for the students
- Very easy to create
- Students can be creative in designing vocabulary frames

### Modifications for Diverse Learners

- *Gifted students*: Have the students research these parts to their frames
  - Take apart any prefixes of the word
  - Isolate the root word
  - Define the root word
  - Separate any suffixes
  - Label the parts of speech in parenthesis

*Non-Native English Speaking Students*: Have the students make the vocabulary frames into flashcards with the same information on the front and concept on the other side. This will help them to use the visual cues to define the

word. Also, students can put the definition or the word in their own language in replacement of a non-example. This will help associate words the students already knows and create a better understanding of the Language Arts material.

**Strategy Log for Middle School Language Arts  
Responding to Reading Strategy**

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**NON-EXAMPLE/OPPOSITE**

**DEFINITION**

**WORD/  
CONCEPT**

**SENTENCE USING THE  
DEFINITION**

**GRAPHIC/VISUAL**