

Lesson Plan Using Enchanted Dictionary 4th-6th Grade or 7th-12th Grade

Relevant Common Core State Standard:

Grades 6-8 Vocabulary Acquisition and Use CCSSI ELA Standards (4)

“Acquire and use accurately grade appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.”



Blooms Taxonomy Focus:

Comprehension; Demonstrating understanding of facts and ideas by organizing, comparing, translating, interpreting, giving descriptions and stating main ideas.

Objectives:

1. Students will use resources to correctly identify the current topic of study and select relevant vocabulary related to the topic.
2. Students will explore and identify effective ways of learning the relevant vocabulary.
3. Students will explain what the selected vocabulary means and how it relates to the current topic of study. When appropriate, students will compare and contrast the selected vocabulary.

Method:

1. The teacher will provide students with materials that introduce a unit of study. These materials may include textbooks, websites, worksheets or other materials.
2. Students will use Enchanted Dictionary to locate the selected topic of study (such as Scientific Method, Elements of Fiction, Government or Solving Equations). The teacher confirms when the correct topic has been identified. There should be discussion of how categorizing what is being learned helps with recalling and applying it. I like to use the analogy of getting ready to go on a trip and trying to carry each of the individual things I need vs. having a suitcase I can pack everything in. The topic is the “suitcase” or framework that they can put all the details/vocabulary into.
3. Students will use the teacher provided materials to locate important vocabulary and check to see if it is in Enchanted Dictionary. If it is they can check it off to study. If an important word is missing they can add it to Enchanted Dictionary and then check it off. The teacher will verify that appropriate vocabulary has been selected.
4. When all the important vocabulary has been identified, the students should practice it using Enchanted Dictionary. As they practice, the teacher can ask them to compare and contrast relevant words.
5. The students can take a brief quiz on the targeted vocabulary to assess their comprehension.

Note: I have used this lesson plan with my students for some time. One interesting effect is that they now come to me armed with topics and vocabulary so that they can “talk me into” playing Enchanted Dictionary.