LESSON MAKER PRO

Word Choice Lab

Investigate a word before you use it.

HIGH SCHOOL · L.11-12.4.d

L.11-12.4.d "Acquire and use accurately general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, sufficient for reading, writing, speaking and listening at the postsecondary readiness level: demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge..."

NAME _____ **DATE** _____

OUR GROUND RULES Read together first

1. Choose words that matter to your message, not just words that sound impressive.
2. Say what clue or source supports a meaning.
3. Play a MOVE card only when its starter fits what you actually have to say.
4. You may agree, disagree, or remain unsure. Do not invent a difference.

HOW TO PLAY Teams of 3 or 4

1. Choose one TOPIC card and read its task aloud.
2. With four players, take one ROLE card each. With three, take Scout, Checker, and Tester, and share Trail Keeper's job.
3. Shuffle two copies of the eight MOVE cards and deal four to each player.
4. Set a timer for eight minutes. Complete a starter when it helps your investigation, then place that MOVE card in the middle.
5. Stop when time is up, even if you have unused cards. State what you agree on, see differently, or still need to check, using the evidence you found.

AFTER THE ROUND Check what you did

- [ ] I identified a word or phrase whose meaning mattered to our message.
- [ ] I checked a clue or source and can name what it showed me.
- [ ] I used a word or phrase in a sentence that fits our situation.
- [ ] I used evidence to keep, revise, or leave open my first idea about a word.

Cut along the dashed lines

TOPIC CARDS · pick one per round

TOPIC

More Time

You need to email a teacher to ask for more time on an assignment. Which word or phrase is important to your request, and how can you check and use it precisely?

TOPIC

Schedule Change

You need to tell a coach or club leader that you cannot attend a planned meeting. Which word or phrase would make your message clear, and how can you check and use it precisely?

TOPIC

Shared Space

You want to speak at a school meeting about changing a shared space. Which word or phrase matters to your point, and how can you check and use it precisely?

ROLE CARDS · one per player

ROLE

Word Scout

Notice words or phrases whose exact meanings matter to the group's message.

ROLE

Clue Checker

Look for a useful clue or available reference and name what it shows about a word.

ROLE

Use Tester

Listen for whether each proposed sentence uses the word accurately in this situation.

ROLE

Trail Keeper

Keep track of the group's words, evidence, and any questions that remain open.

MOVE CARDS · deal 4 to each player

MOVE CARD

SPOT A TERM

"I want to check ____ because its exact meaning matters when ..."

MOVE CARD

SPOT A TERM

"The phrase ____ is worth investigating because ..."

MOVE CARD

CHECK A CLUE

"For ____, I checked this clue or source: ..."

MOVE CARD

CHECK A CLUE

"I checked ____ on my own using ...; what I found was ..."

MOVE CARD

TRY IN CONTEXT

"If ____ means that, a useful sentence would be ..."

MOVE CARD

TRY IN CONTEXT

"In this situation, I would use ____ like this: ..."

MOVE CARD

SHARPEN MEANING

"I would choose ____ instead of a similar word because ..."

MOVE CARD

SUM UP EVIDENCE

"For ____, our current view or views are ...; the evidence is ..."

Cards last longer on thick paper.

Word Choice Lab

RUNNING THE ROUNDS

Print two copies of the MOVE cards per group so each player can receive four, and run additional eight-minute rounds with a new TOPIC card if time allows. An unused card is not a penalty; if one player has spoken less, invite that player to report a clue, example, or open question before time is up.

WHAT A STRONG ROUND SOUNDS LIKE

Maya	I want to check extension because its exact meaning matters when we ask for a new deadline.
Luis	For extension, I checked this source: a dictionary says it can mean extra time allowed to finish a task.
Nia	If extension means that, a useful sentence would be, 'Could I have an extension until Friday to submit my essay?'
Maya	I would choose extension instead of delay because extension clearly names the extra time I am requesting.
Luis	For extension, our current view is that it means extra time to finish the assignment; the evidence is the dictionary meaning and our sentence with a new deadline.

LISTEN FOR

- Students select a word because its precise meaning affects comprehension or expression.
- Students independently check a meaning or usage and identify the clue or source.
- Students test whether a word fits a sentence and its audience.
- Students report agreement, differences, or uncertainty without claiming an unsupported change of mind.

There are no right answers to the topic cards. Score the moves students make, not their opinions.