

Word Move Circle

Build meaning through purposeful talk.

GRADE 11 • 11.RV

11.RV "The student will systematically build vocabulary and word knowledge based on grade eleven content and texts. Vocabulary Development and Word Analysis Develop and accurately use general academic and content-specific vocabulary through..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

OUR GROUND RULES Read together first

1 Use a card only after you say its full starter.

2 Connect your idea to the topic question.

3 Listen before adding a new word idea.

4 Let each speaker finish before responding.

HOW TO PLAY Teams of 3 or 4

1. Choose one Topic card and read its question aloud.
2. Each player takes one Role card.
3. Use two copies of the Move cards and deal four cards to each player.
4. Take turns contributing an idea that genuinely completes one Move card, then place that card in the middle.
5. Continue until every dealt Move card is played, then complete the reflection.

AFTER THE ROUND Check what you did

☐ I used context or sentence structure to explain a meaning.

☐ I used a root, prefix, or suffix to support an idea.

☐ I explained a difference between similar words.

☐ I used a new word or phrase accurately in another context.


TOPIC CARDS · pick one per round

TOPIC	TOPIC	TOPIC
Policy Word Choice How would you explain the difference among transparent, candid, and blunt when a student council writes a policy about sharing decisions?	Unpack a Claim What does this claim mean: "The committee's decision was irreversible, but not necessarily unjust"? Which context clues or word parts support your explanation?	Crossed Rubicon In the sentence "After the debate, Maya said the team had crossed the Rubicon," what does the phrase mean, and how does the allusion shape the tone?

ROLE CARDS · one per player

ROLE	ROLE	ROLE	ROLE
Clue Tracker Listen for context clues, roots, prefixes, suffixes, or sentence structure that support an idea.	Shade Judge Listen for differences in tone, strength, and connotation among similar words.	Figure Decoder Ask the group to separate literal meaning from figurative, idiomatic, or allusive meaning.	Usage Coach Ask the group to test a word or phrase in a new, accurate context.

MOVE CARDS · deal 4 to each player

MOVE CARD INFER MEANING "I think ____ means ____, so ____."	MOVE CARD INFER MEANING "In this context, ____ most likely means ____ because ____."	MOVE CARD TRACE CLUE "The words ____ suggest ____ because ____."	MOVE CARD TRACE CLUE "The root or affix ____ in ____ points to ____, so ____."
MOVE CARD COMPARE NUANCE "____ and ____ both relate to ____, but ____ feels ____."	MOVE CARD COMPARE NUANCE "____ is a more precise choice than ____ because ____."	MOVE CARD INTERPRET FIGURE "The idiom or allusion ____ suggests ____, which makes the tone feel ____."	MOVE CARD TRANSFER WORD "A different context for ____ would be ____."

Print one card sheet per team. Cards last longer on thick paper.

RUNNING THE ROUNDS

Print two copies of the Move cards for each group so every player can receive four cards. Circulate to ensure players complete starters with evidence rather than reading cards without contributing. If participation is uneven, require the most talkative player to wait until each other player has played one card.

WHAT A STRONG ROUND SOUNDS LIKE

Ava	I think transparent means open and easy to understand, so the policy should explain how decisions are made.
Mateo	In this context, transparent most likely means clear about decisions because the policy is about sharing them.
Zuri	Transparent and candid both relate to openness, but candid feels more personal.
Noah	Candid is a more precise choice than blunt because blunt can sound harsh.
Ava	A different context for candid would be a friend giving honest feedback.

LISTEN FOR

- Claims about meaning supported by nearby wording or sentence structure
- Accurate use of roots, prefixes, and suffixes to infer unfamiliar words
- Specific distinctions in connotation, tone, and precision among related words
- Literal versus figurative explanations of idioms and classical allusions

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