

Academic Language Functions

Academic Language Function	Student Uses Language to:	Examples	Thinking Map©	Graphic Organizers	Language Structures/Key Signal Words	Tasks Associated with Academic Language Function	Questions Commonly Asked
Seek Information	Observe and explore; acquire information; inquire	Use who, what, when, where, and how to gather information	Circle Map	Attribute Diagram Web SQ3R Concept Definition Map Outlines Cornell Note-taking	To be, action verbs, prepositions	Define, count, draw, identify, indicate, label, list, match, name, point, recall, recite, reproduce, repeat, trace, write, state, select, record, attributes, characteristics, main idea	Who ____?, What happened?, Where did it happen?, When did it happen?, Where did you find that?, How do you do that?
Inform	Identify, report, or describe information	Recount information presented by teacher or text, retell a story or personal information	Circle Map Bubble Map	Web SQ3R Concept Definition Map Outlines Cornell Note-taking	Adjective use, descriptive language, superlatives/comparatives, ____ said, the book says, first, second, next, etc., according to	Retell, recount, reorder, represent, depict, paraphrase, summarize, give examples, draw, explain, conclude, convert, describe, prepare, transform, translate, restate, rewrite, prepare, give in your own words, generalize, extrapolate	Retell the story in your own words. Summarize the chapter on _____. What happened?, Report your findings., Describe the main character. Tell about _____. What happened? Show how_____.
Compare	Describe similarities and differences in objects or ideas	Make/explain a graphic organizer to show difference and similarity	Double bubble Map Bridge Map	Venn Diagram Semantic Features Analysis T-Chart Fact-Opinion Charts	However, but, as well as, on the other hand, not only...but also, either...or, while, although, unless, similarly, yet, compared with, similar to, different than, and yet, as opposed to, alternatively, apart from, by contrast, contrary to that, conversely, in spite of this, nevertheless, nonetheless, notwithstanding, regardless, some....., but others, still, then again, by the same token, correspondingly, likewise, too	Distinguish, compare, contrast, group, identify, illustrate, point out, recognize, separate, describe, attributes, commonalities, differences, differentiate,	How are ____ and ____ the same? Different? Compare ____ and _____. Describe _____. Now, describe _____. Do either of these _____? What makes ____ the same? What makes ____ different? How do we know the difference between ____ and ____?

Order	Sequence objects, ideas, or events	Describe/make a timeline continuum, cycle, or narrative sequence	Flow Map	Cycle Graph Flow chart Timeline Outlines	First, second, third,.... Next, before, after, afterwards, later on, time, not long after, now, as, when, immediately, preceding, initially, meanwhile, following, until, soon, today, as soon as	Organize, develop, discover, complete, process, outline, order	Put these in chronological order. What happened first? (Second, later, last, etc.) When was ____? What would happen if ____?
Classify	Group objects or ideas according to their characteristics	Describe organizing principles, explain why A is an example but B is not	Tree Map	Hierarchical Organizer Pictograph	Descriptors, adjectives, kinds, types, traits, characteristics, an example of, list	Classify, break down, arrange, organize, categorize, construct, create, generate, summarize, criteria, preclude, include, arrange, group, genres	What color is __? What size is __? What is the texture like? What types of __ are represented here? What traits do these __ have in common? What characteristics do these have in common? What makes these different? Sort these by _____ (size, color, texture, shape, etc.)
Analyze	Separate whole into parts; identify relationships and patterns	Describe parts, feature or main idea of information presented	Brace Map Multi-flow Map Flow Map Tree Map Circle Map	Fishbone Organizers Main idea/supporting details Organizer	Is a part of, is related to, to be, same, different, similarities, differences, the common traits, to, so that, nevertheless, thus, accordingly, if.....then (conditional connectors), makes, causes, because, creates, results in, due to, on account of, therefore	Analyze, calculate, choose, classify, criteria, diagram, break down, categorize, classify, compare, contrast, deduce, detect, differentiate, discriminate, distinguish, group, identify, illustrate, infer, order, outline, point out, recognize, relate, select, separate, subdivide, transform	What is the difference? How is/are they related? Why is _____important? Are they common traits? What caused ____ to happen? What results/consequences might ____ create? What is the main idea? What details support this idea?

Infer	Make inferences; predict implications, hypothesize	Describe reasoning process (inductive or deductive) or generate hypothesis to generate causes or outcomes	Multi-flow Map	T-Chart	Future tense, use of will, if....not, if....then (conditional connectors), descriptive verbs, adjectives	Predict, extrapolate, restate, represent, rewrite, summarize, give examples, evidence, supporting details, reconstruct, synthesize, derive, deduce, explain, create, construct	Why? Why did that happen? How did that happen? Why do you think ____? What makes you think ____? What tells you ____? How do you know that?
Justify and persuade	Give reasons for an action, decision, point of view; be convincing	Tell why A is important and give evidence in support of a position	Circle Map Tree Map	Opposing forces chart Prediction Tree	I think, according to, for example, in fact, most important If...not, if....then, I believe, because, since, based upon, you should, understand, on the contrary, you need to, therefore, from my point of view	Justify, argue, persuade, make a case for or against, compare, contrast, distinguish, discriminate, illustrate, recognize, point out, relate, deduce, categorize, combine, document, support, test, validate, verify, criteria, refer, relationship, irrelevant, preclude, include, give/support your point of view, tone, thesis, evidence, debate, crucial, critical	Why do you think this is important? What evidence do you have to support your point of view? How can you convince someone of your ideas? What reasons will you give to justify your point of view? How did you arrive at your decision?
Solve Problems	Define and represent a problem; determine solution	Describe problem-solving procedure; apply to real life problems	Multi-flow Map	Problem-Solution boxes Cause-effect Chain Opposing forces chart	Because, since, therefore, so that, consequently, as a result, this led	Solve, deduce, hypothesize, causes, effects, support, test, validate, verify, summarize, rate, rank, measure, relate, recommend, justify, judge, interpret, determine, discriminate, decide, criteria, table, refer, relationship, diagram, consequence	What is the process to solve this problem? What is required to solve this problem? Why? What is the criteria? What is your hypothesis? What evidence do you have to support your hypothesis? What is the relationship between __ and __? What are the causes? What are the effects? What is your interpretation of this conclusion?

Synthesize	Combine or integrate ideas to form a new whole	Summarize information cohesively; incorporate new information into prior knowledge	Circle Map	Webs	Conjunctions, in other words, that is to say, to put it differently	Arrange, categorize, combine, compile, compose, construct, create, deduce, derive, design, devise, develop, document, explain, formulate, generalize, generate, integrate, modify, organize, prepare, plan, produce, propose, rearrange, reconstruct, relate, reorganize, revise, rewrite specify, summarize, tell, transmit, write, criteria	What would your plan be for ____? How might this be different if ____? How would you re-write this? How would you arrange this into ____? How do they relate to each other?
Evaluate	Assess and verify the worth of an object, idea, or decision	Identify criteria, explain priorities, indicate reasons for judgment, confirm truth	Double Bubble Map (prioritize characteristics) Multi-flow Map	Cause-effect Chain Opposing forces Chart	I think, according to, for example, in fact, most important, for instance, for example, specifically	Appraise, argue, assess, compare, conclude, consider, contrast, criticize, critique, decide, describe, determine, discriminate, distinguish, evaluate, grade, judge, justify, write, recommend, validate, verify, test, support, rate, rank, measure, criteria, interpret, relate	What is your favorite ____? Why? How does this impact ____? How or why is this significant? How or why is this valuable? How or why is this useful? What did you do to develop ____? Why?

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