Title: Semantic Mapping

The Basics

What? A strategy for developing students' vocabulary by representing the concepts of words graphically

When? As students encounter unfamiliar words in texts

Why? Allows students to organize prior knowledge of words and relate that knowledge to new words

Student Outcomes

This strategy helps students refine their understanding of vocabulary to meet expectations in reading and language.

How to Implement

1. Select a word or words from texts read by the students.
2. Have students complete a semantic map for the word. See "Resources for Additional Information" for sample templates.
3. Semantic maps focus students on determining various forms of words and how those relate to the selected word from the text. For example:
    - Word families (e.g., *read*, *reader*, *readership*, *readability*)
    - Parts of speech and their uses in a sentence (e.g., *anger*, *angry*, *angrily*)
    - Synonyms/antonyms
    - Etymology including root words and affixes
    - Nuances or shades of meaning (e.g., *mad*, *angry*, *irate*)

Resources for Additional Information

- Semantic map templates: Option One, Option Two, Option Three
- Template for identifying the different uses and contexts of a selected word
- Word maps with templates
- Overview with templates
- More templates
- Research article that supports studying word connections when learning vocabulary
- Examples of how to use in lessons: Grades 3-5, Grades 6-8, Grades 9-12