Title: Word Displays

The Basics

What? A display of vocabulary words that students can reference

When? As new words are encountered in texts

Why? Provides support for learning new vocabulary and creates a record of new words that can be referenced when students are reading and writing

Student Outcomes

This strategy helps students understand vocabulary as the read and refine their language skills in support of writing about texts.

How to Implement

1. Select an area of the classroom that is visible to all and large enough to display words
2. Prior to reading a text, select words from the text that will be the focus of vocabulary instruction and write them on the display.
3. Introduce and teach the words, engaging students in a discussion of the word meanings.
4. After reading the text, students may contribute additional words from the text that were not selected by the teacher.
5. Use the wall interactively throughout the year. Encourage students to use words from the display in their own writing and to continue suggesting additions to the display.

Resources for Additional Information

- Brief blog that describes this strategy in more depth
- Article which describes different types of word walls for content vocabulary
- Article from ReadingRockets.org that includes links to additional resources
- Examples of how to use in lessons: Grades 3-5, Grades 9-12