**Vocabulary Assignments**

**Weekly Vocabulary Words**

In order to understand ideas and concepts that are conveyed by authors, teachers, and other members of the academic world it is important that students understand the academic language that is used. Each week students will be given a set of academic vocabulary words that are common in the academic world or are found in the works that they are reading. Students will be expected to understand the definition, part of speech, and how to use the words correctly in a sentence that shows their knowledge and understanding of the word. The words will be fully reviewed at the beginning of the week and student understanding and knowledge of the words will be assessed throughout the week and quarter through a number of vocabulary assignments.

**Vocabulary Notes and Review**

Every week there will be a set of vocabulary words that students will be expected to learn and understand how to use correctly in class. At the beginning of the week the teacher will review the week’s words with the class using and modeling each word in a sentence so that students can hear how the word is used and get an understanding how to use the words correctly in a sentence. The weekly words can be found on the class website. As the teacher models how to use each word correctly, students should be listening and writing down the definitions, parts of speech, and the sample sentences into their notes. The students will use their notes to study and learn the words and to make their weekly flash cards. The vocabulary notes will be checked each week to make sure that students are actually writing down the information they are supposed to.

**Flash Cards**

For homework students will be expected to make flash cards for each word that they keep and study in order to learn the words. On the front of the flash cards students should write their name or initials and the vocabulary word. On the back of the flash card they should put the definition, the different parts of speech for the word, and a sentence that uses the word correctly for each part of speech. An example of the flash cards can be seen on the class website. It is important that students write their own sentence for each word instead of just copying down the sentences that the teacher uses. Writing original sentences gives students an opportunity to check their understanding of the weekly vocabulary words and allows them to ask the teacher to clarify the meaning or how to use any of the words in a sentence.

Students should keep all of their flash cards so that they can study for the cumulative vocabulary test at the end of the quarter. Students need to keep all of their flash cards each week, because flash cards from the prior weeks will be checked each week. Flash cards will be checked in the middle of each week to make sure that they have been made and to make sure that students can use the words correctly in a sentence. If a student doesn’t have their flash cards complete on the day that are checked, they will not receive credit for that set of flash cards. It is imperative that students have flash cards finished on time and are studying them throughout the week. Students will receive extra credit for their flash cards if they draw a picture on the front depicting the meaning the vocabulary word. Check the website for examples of flash cards.

**Vocabulary Sentences and Parts of Speech**

A big part of learning new vocabulary words is knowing the purpose of a word and how to use a word correctly. Understanding a word deals with a word’s part of speech or how a word is used in a sentence. Therefore, students should write a sentence for each part of speech for each word. Each week the teacher will check the sentences on the back of the flash cards to check for comprehension and understanding of the weekly vocabulary words. Students will not receive credit for their flash cards if they do not write a sentence for each part of speech for each word.

**Vocabulary Story or Poem**

Students learn new vocabulary through hearing it and using it in different contexts. It is important that students do more to learn the weekly vocabulary than just memorizing the words and the definitions. Students need to practice using the words in different ways. Each week students will be expected write a short story or a poem using all of the weekly vocabulary words correctly. Students have a choice they can either write a short story or a poem, they do not need to write both. The short story should be a minimum of 10 sentences and should use each vocabulary word correctly showing knowledge of a word’s use and meaning. The story can be hand written, as long as it is legible. The poem should be a minimum of 10 sentences or lines, depending on the formatting of the poem. The poem should use each of the weekly words correctly, showing knowledge of a word’s use and meaning. Students will receive two points for each word that they use correctly. The context of the word must convey that the student has an understanding of how to use the word or else they will not receive credit for it. The vocabulary story or poem will be collected the day before the vocabulary quiz.

**Vocabulary Quizzes**

At the end of each week students will be tested on weekly vocabulary words that they should have studied and learned. The quiz will include the words for that week as well as words from the prior weeks. Students will not know which words from the prior weeks will be selected, therefore it is crucial that students learn all of the words each week and do not simply put the words into their short term memory. A majority of students that do poorly on vocabulary quizzes do so because they don’t know the words from the prior weeks. For the quiz students will be asked to show their knowledge of the word’s parts of speech (the particular parts of speech that was reviewed in class), the word’s definition, and how to use the word correctly in a sentence that shows understanding of the word. Each word is worth 3 points each. Students will receive extra credit on their vocabulary quizzes if they can define one of the literary elements and use it in a sentence correctly. The extra credit word will be randomly selected each week. Students will receive 2 points for getting the definition correct and 2 points for using the word correctly in a sentence.

**End of the Quarter Vocabulary Test**

At the end of each quarter students will be assessed on their knowledge and understanding of the vocabulary words that they studied throughout the quarter. The quarter vocabulary test is a cumulative test that will assess all of the words from that quarter. The test will be like the weekly vocabulary quizzes, students will have to put the correct part of speech and definition for the word, and then use the word correctly in a sentence showing understanding and knowledge of the word. However, sentences on the vocabulary test will be worth 2 points each.