

## Unpacking Language of Social Studies Essential Standard (What does this mean a child will know and be able to do?)

### Essential Standard #5: English language learners communicate information, ideas and concepts necessary for academic success in the content area of Social Studies

- Standard Five addresses the **explicit teaching** of the **academic language of social studies** in the **content and ESL classroom**.

**Instruction** should engage ELLS in the vocabulary, writing, reading, and oral language necessary to participate meaningfully in the social studies classroom. Academic language instruction is characterized by the staging of authentic opportunities to learn and practice with the situation-specific patterns of communication that students need in order to be successful in social studies.

**Academic language** is the language of the classroom. It includes the language of textbooks, assessment, and teacher-student and student-student discourse. Asking for clarification, stating an opinion, and expressing agreement are examples of such discourse. Academic language differs from everyday English in structure and vocabulary.

Academic language uses complex grammar drawing extensively on expository structures:

- Description [\_\_\_\_\_ is made up of \_\_\_\_\_ and looks like \_\_\_\_\_.]
- Sequence [First, \_\_\_\_\_. Next, \_\_\_\_\_. Finally, \_\_\_\_\_.]
- Compare-contrast [Both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ is a \_\_\_\_\_, but \_\_\_\_\_ is not.]
- Cause-effect [\_\_\_\_\_ leads to \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.]
- Problem solution [One answer to \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_.]
- Evaluate [Sample A is the best choice because \_\_\_\_\_.]
- Analysis [A \_\_\_\_\_ is composed of \_\_\_\_\_ parts.]

Academic language also uses:

- Transition words (next, then, first, also)
- Supporting information
- Elaboration (I predict...., I predict \_\_\_\_\_ because ....., My prediction was confirmed/refuted because ....., I know from my own experience(s) \_\_\_\_\_ so I can predict/infer.

Vocabulary in academic language includes discipline-specific words and those words that support or explain technical concepts such as criteria, required, and significant. It also includes

- Polysemous words [words with more than one meaning (example: table, face)]
- Synonyms and antonyms
- Prepositions [by, between, among]
- Tentativeness or modals [would, might possibly, might be]