Literacy Tip #4: Robust Vocabulary Instruction, Megan Naso

* Robust vocabulary instruction is instruction that goes beyond just the definition. It is getting students actively involved in using and thinking about word meanings and making connections with other words.
* Students develop ownership of vocabulary by repeated exposures through a variety of contexts. Here are some activities that will engage students.

1. **Relationships among Words**: Students must decide and explain whether a relationship can exist between two given words.

Example: “Could a *virtuoso* be a *rival*”

1. **Alternate Definitions**: Students must write alternative definitions for a target word

Example:*ambitious*

* + - 1. *Really wanting to succeed in becoming rich or important.*
      2. *Wanting to get ahead by becoming powerful.*
      3. *Wants great success in life.*

1. **Beat the Clock**: Within a given time constraint, students must answer 15-20 true/false statements about given vocabulary words.

Example: *Shrill* sounds can hurt your ears. (True or False)

*Gregarious* people would rather be alone. (True or False)

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Beck, Isabel L., Margaret G. McKeown, and Linda Kucan. "Instructional Sequences for Later Grades."*Bringing Words to Life: Robust Vocabulary Instruction*. New York: Guilford, 2013. 82-86. Print.