Literacy Tip #5: Robust Vocabulary Instruction, Megan Naso

**Assessing Vocabulary**

Your vocabulary assessments will depend on your learning goal. Do you want to know if the students developed an initial understanding or a deeper understanding of the selected vocabulary?

Initial Understanding Assessment Tips:

* Multiple-Choice: Craft answers that require more thinking instead of various definitions.

Example: *Diligent is: (a) making a lot of money (b) working at an interesting job (c) always trying one’s best (d) remembering everything*

* True/False: Create examples that require a deeper understanding of the word

Example: *People who have* ***seniority*** *have been someplace longer than other people. (easy)* ***Seniority*** *is related to time. (requires a deeper understanding)*

Deeper Understanding Assessment Tips:

* Have students create examples of selected vocabulary.

Example: *Describe how someone acts that shows being* ***diligent.***

*Tell about a time that you were* ***perplexed****.*

* Ask students to describe what is alike/different for pairs of words.

Example: *berate/retort acquaintance/ally exotic/unique*

*extraordinary/peculiar*

Visit my website to find all the literacy tips presented in the weekly “Connections”.

Beck, Isabel L., Margaret G. McKeown, and Linda Kucan. "Assessing and Maintaining New Vocabulary."*Bringing Words to Life: Robust Vocabulary Instruction*. New York: Guilford, 2013. 103-108. Print.