

Vocabulary Rubric

What

The vocabulary rubric helps students reflect on vocabulary words and evaluate their knowledge about each term.

Why

The number of vocabulary terms students need to learn makes it impossible for teachers to provide direct instruction on every word. This strategy is a good pre-assessment tool to help teachers identify words that need the most instruction.

How

1. Give students a copy of the vocabulary rubric and explain how it is used. (Alternative: create cards with each heading – *Clueless*, *Heard of it/Don't Know it*, *I Think I Know it*, *Expert*. Have students sort vocabulary terms under each heading.
2. Give students a list of vocabulary terms (or terms on word sort cards).
3. Ask students to place each word in the column that best represents their understanding of the term.
4. Collect the lists from students (or walk around and observe the words sorted under each heading). Use the information to identify the words that need the most direct instruction.

Vocabulary Rubric

Read the words listed. Write each word under the heading that best describes your prior knowledge about each word.

Word List:

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Clueless	Heard of It/Don't Know It	I Think I Know It	Expert!

Adapted from: *Power Tools for Adolescent Literacy*, Jan Rozzelle & Carol Scarce, 2009, Solution Tree Press.