

Selected Glossary of Terms Relating to Sample Assessments and Connections

abstracting Summarizing information into main ideas.

advertisement A promotion method in which producers try to convince consumers to buy or use their products or services.

almanac An annual book that includes a calendar, weather forecasts, stories, jokes, and wise sayings, such as Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack*.

anticipation guide Helps students predict what they will learn from a reading and serves as a checklist to assess the outcomes of their predictions.

bar graph A visual chart that uses blocks of varying lengths to display data and provide information.

biographies Accounts of people's lives that detail important dates, events, and personality traits.

brainstorming Group discussions to generate and record ideas.

brochure A small booklet used as a promotional tool.

buzz session Small group discussion.

cartogram A visual diagram in the form of a map that distorts the size of land on a map to present statistical data, such as population or distance.

cartoon Editorial cartoons can present historical and current events in an informative and humorous way. The cartoons provide the artist's view, with which the student may not be familiar.

chart A graphic organizer used to present data, usually numerical, in a visual format.

choropleth map A map that illustrates data for a group of regions by categorizing data into classes and shading or coloring each class. Surface properties on the map can also be illustrated by using symbols within a certain area.

classify Arrange items or groups of items into categories.

climate graph A visual chart that displays the average monthly temperature and average monthly precipitation for a place.

collage A visual display made up of assembled photos, drawings, news clippings, or other visual images that contain a common theme or main idea to illustrate a concept.

comparing Looking for similarities of objects or ideas.

comparison charts A graphic organizer used to examine the similarities and differences of objects or ideas.

concept web A graphic organizer used to connect facts, ideas, and words that are related to each other. A circle is drawn on the center of a page with a main idea written in the center circle. Other ideas that are connected to the main idea are written in circles surrounding and linked to the center circle.

contrasting Observing differences among objects or ideas.

co-op Students working together to achieve individual goals.

cyclical diagram (see flowchart) A graphic organizer used to illustrate the steps and their order in a specific process. The steps are typically linked with arrows demonstrating the progression and cyclical order of the process.

debate A structured argument where each side presents its case with the intention of persuading the audience to a particular viewpoint.

deliberation The careful consideration of multiple viewpoints of an argument and examining the facts and information related to each side.

description Informative explanation to demonstrate knowledge or introduce new information.

diorama A three-dimensional visual representation of a scene.

discussion An opportunity for students to share their ideas in an open forum and listen and respond to the ideas of others.

drawing conclusions Analyzing information and making logical assumptions based on that information.

essay Short written work on a single topic.

evaluate Consider and place value on information, eventually leading to a conclusion.

expository Writing that presents and explains information and ideas.

flowchart A graphic organizer used to illustrate the steps and their order in a specific process. The steps are typically linked with arrows demonstrating the progression and order of the process.

generalizations Statements that summarize groups of facts and draw clear correlations between those facts.

graphic organizer Visual representations that organize information or illustrate relationships among words, concepts, or ideas. Examples include webs, flowcharts, and story maps.

graphing Making visual diagrams to represent numerical data.

hypothesize Give a possible prediction or explanation.

identify Recognize an object or concept.

illustrate Use visual images to explain or describe.

information tree A diagram which shows information in a hierarchal order, using a tree-like structure. This type of diagram shows where a particular piece of information or data resides within the larger organization of the structure and can help students understand how data is related.

interview Research method involving conversations between two or more people in which the purpose is to obtain information by asking questions and evaluating responses.

journal entry A writing exercise that encourages students to reflect on what they have learned or to express their views on certain topics.

K-W-L charts A graphic organizer used with informational text. Before reading, students indicate what they know (K) about a topic and what they want (W) to learn about the topic; during and after reading they review what they learned (L) from the text.

letter writing An exercise that encourages students to address issues or ask questions in the form of a letter.

library research A form of research that requires the student to utilize the resources available in the library, including reference collections and databases.

model Demonstrate the reasoning and mental processes involved in effectively applying comprehension strategies; “thinking aloud.”

narrative Writing that tells a story or gives an account; examples include fiction, biographies, and certain informational selections.

note taking A process to record and organize ideas to help students remember what they learned.

open discussion Discussion among students without following a formal structure.

oral presentation Verbal presentations that offer information about a topic. Examples include speeches, storytelling, dramas, and debates.

outline A way to organize the main idea and details of a subject using hierarchy.

pamphlet A short, unbound booklet that uses text and images to convey a message about a topic.

perform Act out a scenario or event.

poem Composition of words using a rhythmic arrangement of syllables and verbal imagery to communicate a concept.

population map A map that suggests settlement patterns by illustrating the population density of particular areas.

poster A visual tool used in presentations to display information about a main idea. May be informational or persuasive and contents may include text and a variety of images.

propose ideas Suggest thoughts or concepts that may contribute to a solution or conclusion.

report A written presentation about a subject, usually expository, intended to demonstrate the writer's knowledge and inform the reader.

research The process of investigating events, people, and places from different points of view. Research is performed using primary and secondary sources, conducting interviews, and creating organized lists of information and facts.

script A document that outlines a story or event. A script usually relates information about characters' qualities and also contains dialogue and the details of a scene.

skit A short play, usually about a single topic, conducted in an informal setting.

song Short, artistic composition about a topic, consisting of words and sometime music, that expresses ideas and feelings.

speech A verbal presentation that expresses thoughts and feelings in an organized manner.

study group A small group of students that discusses and reviews details in order to better understand and form opinions about information.

summary The most important idea or ideas of a text in brief form.

table A visual chart organizing numbers, facts, or other types of information so it can be classified, grouped, and compared and contrasted.

time line A visual diagram that chronologically illustrates when events took place and the length of time between those events. Putting historical events in order can help students understand how one event may have led to another.

Venn diagram A comparison chart that uses two or more overlapping circles. Shared characteristics are listed in the overlapping section(s) in the center of the diagram, while differences are listed in opposing groups to the left and right of the diagram.

word web A graphic organizer used to connect words that are related to each other. A circle is drawn on the center of a page with a word written in the center circle. Other words, which are in some way connected to the word in the center circle, are written in circles surrounding and linked to the center circle.

writing Expressing ideas and thoughts with words.