

Academic Vocabulary Word of the Week: Justify

What?

Academic Vocabulary words are the “high- utility” words that are commonly used and applied across all content areas and grade levels. These are also the words used in academic discourse and on assessments.

(Christine Dugan, 2004) (Yop,Yop, and Bishop, 2009)

Why?

Academic Vocabulary instruction is considered best practices and is a critical component of reading instruction. All students need to master these “high-utility” essential words to be able to comprehend and appropriately apply to various activities or settings throughout their scholastic careers.

How?

1. Create an excitement toward word consciousness, have fun with word play
2. Regular opportunities for verbal, written, reading, and assessment practice of the key vocabulary
3. Explicit instruction on specific targeted words
4. Strategies for independence with word learning
5. Provide a multitude of texts of varied topics/genres for building fluency

Word of the Week Activity:

1. **WOW graphic organizer**
2. ***Would you Rather? Questions*** A fun way to practice the new vocabulary word while getting to know your students even better!

Justify

jus·ti·fy
'jəs-tə-, fī

Part of
Speech:
Verb



Greek & Latin Roots:

- Just: accurate, precise, correct
- -if: in case that; supposing that; on condition that
- Y: suffix indicating state, condition, or quality; activity or the result of it

Definition:

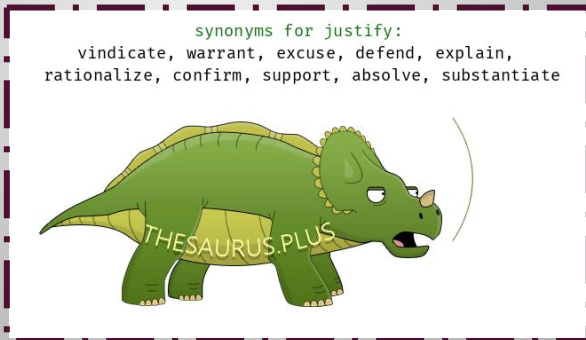
1. to prove or show to be just, right, or reasonable.

// How can you justify your actions?

Synonyms:

Confirm
Prove
Verify
Speak in favor of
Give reasons for
Right
Rationalize
Validate
Uphold
Rationale
legitimize

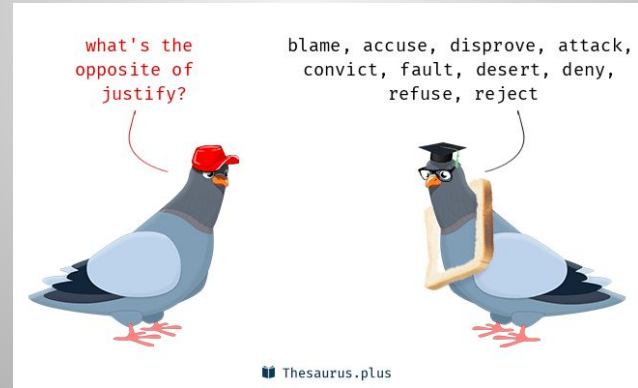
Defend
Claim
Vindicate
Argue for
Warrant
Explain
Substantiate
Confirm
Sustain
Justification for



Antonyms:

Contradict
Deny
Disapprove
Neglect
Oppose
Refuse
Reject
Veto

Charge
Convict
Disagree
Disprove
Incriminate
Invalidate



Academic Vocabulary Word of the Week Home Connection: Sequence

Dear Parents,

Academic Vocabulary words are the verbs that enable your child to understand and participate in many aspects of school. They are necessary for students to comprehend various texts, directions on activities & assessments, how to participate correctly in student discourse, and how to write on topics intelligently. Studies have even shown that mastery of Academic Vocabulary words contributes not only to success now in elementary school but also at the collegiate level and even in professional future lives.

Parents can support school efforts for vocabulary instruction by incorporating the newly learned words into conversations at home. This could look like: *What is the new Academic Vocabulary word you are learning? What does it mean? How have you used this word so far? How do you think we can use this word here at home together?*

Parents are also encouraged to play the "Would you Rather" game encouraging your child to **JUSTIFY** their answers by explaining why they chose the answer they did. Please see slide #8 for sample scenarios or see the Spycatgames.com website for other kid appropriate questions. It's a fun way to practice vocabulary while getting to have a great conversation with your child!

Example:

Parent- "Would you rather be invisible or be able to fly?"

Child- I would rather be _____ because _____.

Vocabulary Resource

Links:

1. [Vocabulary - RUNDLE](#)
All Rundle Vocabulary activities, past & present, featured here; check them out!
2. [Sunrise Library](#) - check out up to 50 books at a time plus other great programs!
3. [Vocabulary games and information](#) - play games and create word consciousness
4. [Spycatgames.com](#) - fun "Would you Rather" questions for kids

What can you Justify?

Here are some ideas to get you started:

Justify your solution to a math problem, justify your thoughts by citing or paraphrasing a text, justify your opinion or thought on a given topic with a reason, justify your hypothesis for a science experiment, coding justification, or your choice in a situation.

Now let's practice using this vocabulary word in conversations!

I can justify _____ by _____.
_____ is justified by _____.

Definition:

Write a sentence using the Academic Vocabulary Word:

Word:

Illustration:

Synonyms:

Antonyms:

(Greek or Latin) Roots of the word:

Would you Rather?

Scenario A: _____

Scenario B: _____

Justify your choice...

Would You Rather Questions:

Would you Rather...

- ... be able to fly or read minds?
- ... live in a mansion or on a farm?
- ... go to Disneyland or go to Legoland?
- ... eat pumpkin pie or apple pie?
- ... slide down a rainbow or jump on a cloud?
- ... lick a dirty trash can or the bathroom floor?
- ... see a fireworks show or go to a concert?
- ... be a famous singer or a famous actor?
- ... be able to control the weather or be able to talk to animals?
- ... be able to speak every language or play every instrument?
- ... live without a tv or live without a phone?
- ... be a bird or a horse?
- ... have a pet dinosaur or a pet dragon?
- ... have a pool or a trampoline?
- ... be the smartest person in the world or be the best athlete?
- ... be a unicorn or a pegasus?

- ... be an olympic athlete or the president?
- ... have a picnic at the park or at the beach?
- ... live 100 years in the past or 100 years in the future?
- ... fly a helicopter or a commercial plane?
- ... discover a hidden treasure or a live dinosaur?
- ... be friends with Spiderman or Superman?
- ... read a book or watch a movie?
- ... live without electricity or without plumbing?
- ... run through a stinky swamp or eat a giant squishy bug?
- ... be a superhero or a villain?
- ... have a robot or a helper monkey?
- ... be friends with a Minion or a Pokemon?
- ... live on an island or on a boat?

Sentence Stem:

I would rather _____ than _____ because_____.