

# Academic Vocabulary Word of the Week: Inquire

## What?

Academic Vocabulary may sound fancy and formal but it's just the words, typically verbs, that are used throughout schools, workforces, and even in our personal lives. These words are frequently used across ALL subjects and have a direct relation to student performance and success. Here's a sample assessment example, "**Rewrite the paragraph by organizing it correctly and adding ideas that support the opinion that is given.**" This sentence alone has 5 different academic vocabulary words in it! Think about a student's performance on this task if they didn't even know what all of those words meant or what they were being asked to do, probably not good and very stressful for the student.

## Why?

"Direct vocabulary instruction is fundamental to effective teaching. Our knowledge about and understanding of any topic is rooted in our mastery of the terms relevant to that topic."  
(Carleton & Marzano, 2010)

Vocabulary instruction, or a lack there of, truly has a direct link affecting EVERY student in EVERY subject or area of study. **ACADEMIC VOCABULARY WORDS ARE WORDS EVERYONE NEEDS TO KNOW!**

## How?

Students will learn vocabulary when they've been provided explicit instruction and given opportunities to practice. "The use of academic games in the classroom is associated with a 20 percentile point gain" according to Marzano Research Laboratory. That's amazing and well worth it, play games and learn, who wouldn't want to do that?!?

## Word of the Week Activity:

Select an activity for your class or try them all on different days in different ways, choose what works best for your class!

**#5: sentence stems**

**#6: graphic organizer for explicit instruction with metacognitive indicator**

**#7: 20 Inquiries game**

**#8: Word Play: Riddle me this, Inquire me that**

**#9: Inquiry Based Learning and Questioning links including videos**

Dear Parents,

# Academic Vocabulary Word of the Week Home Connection: Inquire

Our newest Word of the Week is: **g** Inquire means to ask questions and while the thought of encouraging your children to ask *more* and *more* questions may seem ludicrous it can be very powerful when structured. Teaching your child questioning skills will open their worlds! There's more to "inquiring or asking questions" than just "why, why, why?" Structuring their questions can be done through "Inquiry Based Learning" and right in your own home! It all starts with a question that they'd like to answer- literally any question! For example: Why is the sky blue? Why do people sweat but dogs pant? Why do ants sting? Etc. From a kid's perspective it's getting to investigate their own curiosity with YOU, their amazing parent, and from a parent's perspective it's teaching your kids how to critically think, investigate, and problem solve. Hey, sounds like a WIN WIN!! Read on for instructions.

## Inquiry Based Learning at Home:

1. **Start with a Question** that your child would like to answer and ask them: "What do you notice about \_\_\_\_\_?" Or "What's the problem with?" Then, ask your child, "Well how can we solve \_\_\_?" or "What do you already know about \_\_\_\_\_?"
2. **Determine how to solve the problem or answer the question:** Research (the library, online, books), perform an experiment, interview community members or family members, collect data and graph your results etc.
3. **Examine your results:** Work with your child to understand the results by asking questions like these: did these results surprise you? What did you think you would find out? Do you have a new opinion about this topic now? Etc. Don't forget to praise your child for their inquisitive nature and sheer determination to find answers! Enjoy the moments like these with your kiddos, sometimes their results might surprise you as well and make some great memories along the way!

## Vocabulary Resource Links:

1. [Vocabulary - RUNDLE](#) All Rundle Vocabulary activities
2. [A Parent's-experience-inquiry-based-learning/](#)
3. [Inquiry Based Learning at Home](#)



# Inquire

Part of  
Speech:  
verb

in·quire  
in- 'kwī(-ə)r



**Latin & Greek Roots:** Medieval Latin *inquerere*

**In:** to

**Query:** ask or seek, examine

*\*Inquire (in-latin) and enquire (en-french) both mean "to question" and are used interchangeably in the USA*

## Definition:

1. : look or seek for information by questioning

*// They inquired about the House of Reveur, the most amazing house of them all.*

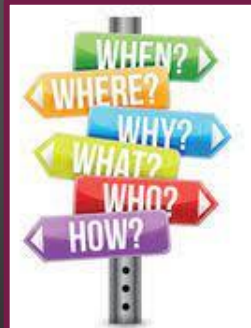
2. : to formally investigate; an inquiry

*// Let's perform a scientific inquiry about water.*

# Synonyms:

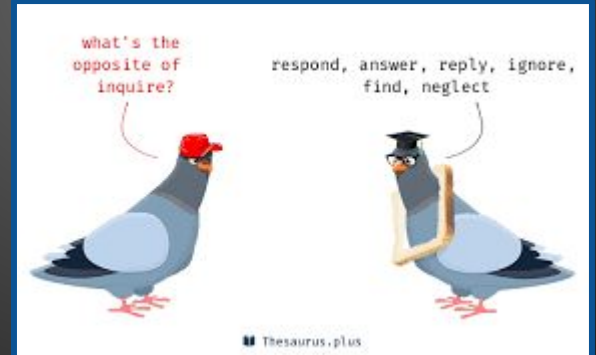
ask  
make inquiries  
ask questions  
pose a question  
request information  
want to know  
look to someone for answers  
conduct an inquiry  
make inquiries  
probe  
look  
investigate  
research  
examine

explore  
scan  
sift  
delve  
dig  
search  
scrutinize  
interrogate  
analyze  
seek  
inspect



# Antonyms:

answer  
respond  
reply  
solve  
find  
neglect  
ignore





# Let's practice using sentence stems for "inquire"



Inquiring Minds  
Wanted

I can inquire about \_\_\_\_\_.

I will inquire about \_\_\_\_\_.

I am inquiring about \_\_\_\_\_.

Inquiring about \_\_\_\_\_ will help me to understand \_\_\_\_\_.

I can start an inquiry about \_\_\_\_\_.

I want to inquire about \_\_\_\_\_.

I want to inquire about \_\_\_\_\_ to help me learn more about \_\_\_\_\_.





# Academic Vocabulary Graphic Organizer

Word: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe:

Draw:

**My Understanding:**

-  I understand so well I can teach this to others
-  I understand
-  I understand somewhat
-  I do not understand

# 20 Inquiries:

Aka, "20 Questions" is a verbal game that allows you to choose a topic and ask questions, or *inquire*, about that topic. It's a great way to give students practice with any vocabulary from any subject or unit of study!

Directions: Prepare a stack of cards (digital or paper) with topics or vocabulary words already on them (ex. Math terms, science unit, states and capitals, sight words, review previous academic vocabulary etc).

Choose a student to be "The Responder" and to pick a card from the stack. The rest of the students will be, "the **Inquirers**" and can make up to 20 **inquiries** (ask questions) that can only be answered only with a "yes" or a "no." If an "Inquirer" correctly *inquires* about the word and guesses it then they get to be the "Responder" now. If no one *inquires* correctly then the "Responder" gets to go again.



# Riddle me this, Inquire me that:

*adapted from Teaching Vocabulary in All Classrooms, Blachowicz & Fisher*

**First**, create inquiries (questions) with pun-like responses by choosing a subject, and generating a list of related terms. **When students are asking questions and playing with words it is increasing their vocabularies, developing a love of learning, and making learning fun!**

Example:

subject: pigs

related terms: ham, pork, grunt, pen, hog, piglet, oink, bacon

**Next**, remove the first letter off one of the words and make a new list of words that begin with the remaining letters.

Example: ham.... Drop the "H" and you're left with "am." No find words that start with "am."

"Am" words: ambulance, amnesia, America, amphibian, amateur

**Then**, add the initial letter back in front of the newly listed words.

Example: add "h" in front of ambulance to get "hambulance" or "hamnesia"

**Finally**, make up a riddle that uses the new word as the answer.

Example: *What do you do for a pig that's hurt? Call for the "hambulance"*



Teachers,  
for more information about Inquiry based learning  
and questioning please see the following links below:

1. [Inquiry Driven Classroom](#)
2. [Teacher's Guide to a Inquiry Based Classroom](#)
3. [Website with lots of questions for effective questioning in the classroom](#)
4. [QFT- formulating questions in an Inquiry based Learning Classroom](#)

