

Linear Arrays

Wisconsin State Standards Strand

Language

- Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

Grade Level
6-12

Purpose

Use with students to support vocabulary development: introduce new vocabulary words and develop word consciousness

When to Use

Before Reading
After Reading

Grouping

Whole class
Small group
Partners
Individual

ABOUT THE STRATEGY

LINEAR ARRAYS is a graphic organizer that helps students visualize gradations of meaning between two related words. It is used before or after reading to examine subtle distinctions in words. This strategy develops students' word consciousness, illustrating how each word has a specific meaning. Linear arrays can be used to support student writing as they choose the precise word to describe their ideas.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY

- Select two related words.
- Decide how many gradations there should be between the two related words.
- Model how to create a linear array, provide students with a pre-made linear array, or use paint chips for students to use as their linear array.
- Establish the purpose of the strategy.
- Use a think-aloud as you model how you decide which words to include in the linear array.
- Encourage students to generate a list of words that relate to the words and use those words to create the linear array or provide students with the words; scaffold as needed.
- Encourage discussion about why students decide to place a word in a specific order.

MEASURING PROGRESS

- Teacher observation
- Conferencing
- Student journaling
- Linear array as a formative assessment

RESEARCH

Allen, J. (1999). *Words, words, words: Teaching vocabulary in grades 4-12*. Portland, ME: Stenhouse Publishing.

Rosenbaum, C. (2001). A word map for middle school: A tool for effective vocabulary instruction. *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy*, 45, 44-49.

Winters, R. (2009). Interactive frames for vocabulary growth and word consciousness. *The Reading Teacher*, 62, 685-690.

Name: _____

Linear Array

Select two related words. Place on either end of the linear array. Generate words that have similar meaning to the two related words. Place the words on the linear array to show the gradation of meaning between the two related words.

