Resource Guide Item 12

Teaching Vocabulary Activities

1. Semantic Mapping: Students create a chart that includes key features of the word to be defined, such as synonyms, antonyms, an illustration, the definition, and a sentence using the word.
2. Teaching Word Parts: Students learn the roots, prefixes and suffixes of words, allowing them to make connections between words they already know and those they don’t. One way to do this is to teach a different word each day, explicitly teaching the prefixes and suffixes and how they relate to the base word to change the meaning
3. Index Card Vocabulary Game: Hand out index cards that have a vocabulary word written on it. Also, hand out a page that has all of the words listed. Tell the students to find out who everyone else is, having them write down the words and important information from the back of the cards.
4. Example or not: Write a vocabulary word on the board, read it with the students and discuss what it means. Show pictures that either apply to the word or not and have the students decide which pictures fit with which words.
5. Figures of Speech, Teaching Idioms: Explain what idioms are. Show the students an idiom and discuss what they think it means Write a sentence on the board that uses context clues to explain the meaning. Let students share their own experiences that apply to the idioms discussed in class. To extend, have the students illustrate the literal meaning on one side of a paper and the figurative meaning on the other.