“Construct relevant vocabulary” refers to any English language arts term that students should know because it is essential to the construct of English language arts. As such, these terms should be part of instruction.

These are words that may appear in assessment stems or options on the ELA Smarter Balanced Assessment even though the EDL might identify these terms as above grade level for general use. Because these terms are part of instruction in the ELA classroom they are considered construct relevant and thus allowable for this use.

The following list of “construct relevant vocabulary” was compiled by the Smarter Balanced ELA Team Leads. This list

- is not intended to be a default vocabulary curriculum; instead, the list of terms is intended as an instructional resource to ensure that teachers remember to embed these terms into their instruction.
- includes words that will not be glossed.
- is a working document. It is neither “finished” nor is it all-inclusive.

Note: Some words are not repeated in subsequent grades because it is assumed students are familiar with them because they have been part of ELA instruction in previous grades.
Grade 3

affix
antonym
article/magazine article/
newspaper article
audience (as in writer's
audience)
author
capitals/capitalization
central idea
character(s)
character's actions
characters' relationships
clear language
conclude/conclusion
conclusion drawn/drawing a
conclusion
connect ideas (transitions in
writing)
convince/convincing (in opinion
writing)
definition
describe/description/descriptive
details/realistic details
develop ideas (evidence/
elaboration)
dialogue
dictionary/dictionary entry
draft
edit
encyclopedia
errors
event
examples
explain
facts
flashback
global notes
grammar usage
heading
illustration
imaginary
infer/inference(s)/
inference(s) made
inform
information
informational paper/
informational article
Internet
introduce setting/
characters/problems (writing)
introduction
key details
lesson/moral
main character
main idea
meaning
mental picture (writing)
message (e.g., author's
message)
narrator
notes
opening (beginning)
opinion/agree/disagree
opposite
order of events
organize(d)/organization of
ideas
paragraph
passage
phrase
plot
point of view

pre-writing
presentation (listening stimulus)
punctuation/punctuated
purpose for writing (informative,
opinion, narrative writing)
quotation/direct quotations/
quoting directly
reason(s)
relationship
report
research
research report
revise
root word
sentence/pair of sentences/set
of sentences/line
setting
similar
skim
source(s)
speaker (used in listening items)
specific word choice
spell check
spelling errors
stanza
support/supporting details
synonym
title
topic
trustworthy source
underlined
verb(s)/verb tense
account
adjectives
affix
antonym
appropriate information
article/magazine article/newspaper article
audience (as in writer's audience)
author
author's message
author's point of view
blog
capitals/capitalization
central idea
characters
character's actions
characters' relationships
chart/graph/diagram/table
clear language
comma
close/compare contrast
conclude/conclusion/
concluding statement
conclusion drawn/drawing a conclusion
collection
collocation connect ideas (transitions in writing)
convince
definition(s)
describe/description/descriptive
details/realistic details
develop ideas (evidence/elaboration)
dialogue
dictionary/dictionary entry
draft
draft
edit
encyclopedia
errors
event
evidence
example
explain
flashback

Grade 4

account
adjectives
affix
antonym
appropriate information
article/magazine article/newspaper article
audience (as in writer's audience)
author
author's message
author's point of view
blog
capitals/capitalization
central idea
characters
character's actions
characters' relationships
chart/graph/diagram/table
clear language
comma
close/compare contrast
conclude/conclusion/
concluding statement
conclusion drawn/drawing a conclusion
collection
collocation connect ideas (transitions in writing)
convince
definition(s)
describe/description/descriptive
details/realistic details
develop ideas (evidence/elaboration)
dialogue
dictionary/dictionary entry
draft
draft
edit
encyclopedia
errors
event
evidence
example
explain
flashback
global notes
grammar usage
heading
imaginary
infer /inference(s)/
inference(s) made
inform
information
informational paper/
informational articles
Internet
introduction
key details
key events
key idea
main characters
main idea
main problem
meaning
mental picture (writing)
narrative (story)
narrator
notes
opening (beginning)
opinion(s)/agree/disagree
opposite
order of events
organize(d)/organization of ideas
paragraph
passage
phrase
plot
poem
point of view/view (point)
pre-writing
presentation (listening stimulus)
punctuation/punctuated
purpose (e.g., author's or speaker's purpose)
purpose for writing (informative, opinion, narrative writing)
quotes/quotation/direct
quotations/quoting directly/
quotation marks
reason(s)
relationship
report
research
research question
research report
revise
root word
section
sensory details/language
sentences/set of sentences/pair of sentences/line/statement
setting
similar
skim
sources
speaker
specific/exact word(s)/word choice(s)/language
spell check
spelling errors
stanza
summary/summarize(s)
supporting details/evidence/reasons
synonym
theme
timeline
title
topic
transitions
trustworthy source
underline
verb/tense shift
webpage/website
writer's message
affix
antonym
appropriate information
article
audience (as in writer's audience)
author
author's message
author's point of view
blog
capitals/capitalization
cause/effect
central idea
characters
character's actions
characters' relationships
chart/graph/diagram/table
clear language
comma(s)
compare/contrast
conclude/conclusion/
concluding statement
conclusion drawn/drawing a
conclusion
concrete details
conflict
connect ideas - (transitions in
writing)
convince
create
definition(s)
describe/description/descriptive
details/ realistic details
determine
develop ideas (evidence/
elaboration)
dialogue
dictionary entry
draft
edit
effect
effective beginning/ending
elaborate/elaboration of ideas
errors
essay
event
evidence
example
explain
first paragraph
flashback
focus
global notes
grammar usage
headings
imaginary
infer/inference(s)/
inference(s) made
inform
informational
paper/informational article
Internet
introduction
key detail(s)
key events
key point
main idea
main problem
meaning
mental picture (writing)
narrative
narrator
notes
opinion(s)/agree/disagree
opposite
organize(d)/organization of ideas
paragraph
passage
phrase
plot
point of view/view (point)
pre-write
presentation
punctuation/punctuated
purpose (e.g., author's or
speaker's purpose)
purpose for writing (informative,
opinion, narrative writing)
quotation(s)/direct quotations/
quoting directly/quotation marks
reasons
relationship
report
research
research question
research report
revise
root word
sensory details/language
setting
similar
skim
source(s)
speaker
specific/exact word(s)/
word choice(s)/information
spell check
spelling errors
stanza
statement/sentence/set of
sentences/pair of sentences/line
summary/summarize(s)
supporting evidence/reasons
synonym
theme
thesaurus
timeline
title
topic
transition words/phrases
trustworthy source(s)
verbs/verb tense/shifts
webpage/website
accurate/inaccurate information
affix
analysis
antonym
appropriate information
argument
argumentative article/text/ essay
audience (as in writer's audience)
author's intent
author's message
author's point of view
blog
capitalization
central idea
character's action/
characters' relationship/
characters' interaction
claim
closure
compare/contrast
comparison
conclude/conclusion
conclusion drawn
concrete/specific/
realistic details
conflict/tension
connections/relationships
between ideas (transitions in
writing)
contradict
controlling idea/thesis
conventions
credible sources
describe/description
develop ideas (evidence/
elaboration)
dialogue
draftedit
editorial
effective beginnings/endings
elaborate/elaboration of ideas
essay
establish a claim
evidence
example
excerpt
explanatory article/text/
essay/writing
flashback
focus
global notes
grammar usage
heading
imaginary
inclusion
infer/inference(s)/
inference(s) made
integrate information/ideas
interaction
interpretation
introduction
justify
key detail
key event
logical progression of ideas
logical sequence of events
mental picture (writing)
multi-paragraph
multiple meanings
narrative/narrative writing
narrator
observation
opinion
organize/organization
paraphrase/paraphrasing
phrase
plagiarism/plagiarize/
plagiarizing
plot
point of view/viewpoint
pre-write
precise/specific language
presentation
punctuation/punctuated
purpose (e.g., author's or
speaker's purpose)
purpose for writing (explanatory,
argumentative, narrative writing)
quotation/quoting
reference/identify sources
relationship
relevant
relevant supporting evidence/
reasons/details/information
represent
research
research question
resolve/resolution
revise
root word
sensory language/details
sequence of events
setting
skim
source(s)
stanza
style
summarize
support
synonym
text structures
(compare/contrast; cause effect;
problem/solution; pro/con)
theme
thesis/controlling idea
title
tone
topic
transitions/transition words/
phrases
trustworthy source(s)
visualize
website
Grade 7

accurate/inaccurate information/accuracy of information
acknowledge/address opposing viewpoint/counterclaims
address potential counterarguments/opposing claims
affix analysis antonym argument argumentative text/article/essay/writing audience (as in writer's audience) author's intent author's message author's point of view author's purpose blog capitalization central idea character's action/characters' interaction/characters' relationships claim compare/contrast comparison conclude/conclusion conclusion drawn concrete details/words/phrases/language conflict/tension context contradict controlling idea/thesis conventions counterargument counterclaim credible definition develop ideas (evidence/elaboration) dialogue draft edit editorial elaborate/elaboration of ideas essay establish a claim evidence excerpt explanatory article/text/essay/writing flashback focus global notes grammar usage heading illustrate inclusion infer/inference(s)/inference(s) made integrate information/ideas interaction interpretation introduction justify key events logical progression of ideas logical sequence of events mental picture/image multi-paragraph multiple meanings narrative/narrative writing observation organize/organization of ideas paraphrase/paraphrasing phrase plagiarism/plagiarize/plagiarizing plot point of view/viewpoint pre-write precise/concise language presentation punctuation/punctuated purpose (e.g., author's or speaker's purpose) purpose for writing (explanatory, argumentative, narrative writing) quotation(s)/quoting reference/identify sources relationship(s) relevant relevant supporting evidence research research question resolve/resolution revise root word sensory language/details sequence of events setting skim source(s) stanza style summary support synonym text structure (compare/contrast; cause/effect; problem/solution; pro/con) theme thesis/controlling idea tone topic transitions/transition words/phrases trustworthy source(s) visualize website
Grade 8

accurate/inaccurate information/
accuracy of information
acknowledge/address opposing
viewpoint/counterclaims
address potential
counterarguments/opposing
claims
affix
analysis
antonym
argument
argumentative text/essay
audience (as in writer's audience)
author's intent
author's message
author's point of view
author's purpose
blog
capitalization
central idea
character's action/
characters' interaction/
characters' relationships
claim
clarify claim/counterclaim
clause
compare/contrast
comparison
conclude/conclusion
conclusion drawn
concrete details/words/phrases/
language
conflict/tension
context
contradict
controlling idea/thesis
conventions
counterargument
counterclaim
credible
develop ideas (evidence/
elaboration)
dialogue
draft
draft
editorial
elaborate/elaboration of ideas
essay
establish a claim
evidence
excerpt
explanatory article/text/
essay/writing
flashback
focus
global notes
grammar usage
heading
illustrate
inclusion
infer/inference(s)/
inference(s) made
integrate information/ideas
interaction
interpretation
introduction
justify
key events
logical progression of ideas
logical sequence of events
motive
multiple meanings
narrative/narrative writing
observation(s)
paraphrase/paraphrasing
phrases
plagiarism/plagiarize/
plagiarizing
plot
point of view/viewpoint
pre-write
precise/concise language/
word choice
presentation
punctuation/punctuated
purpose (e.g., author's or
speaker's purpose)
purpose for writing (explanatory,
argumentative, narrative writing)
quotation(s)
reference sources
relationships
relevant/irrelevant
relevant supporting evidence
resolve/resolution
revise
root word
sensory details/language
sequence of events
setting
shift in narrator's perspective/
point of view
skim
stanza
style
summarize
support
synonym
text structure (compare/contrast;
cause/effect; problem/solution;
pro/con)
theme
thesis/controlling idea
tone
topic
transitions/transition
words/phrases/clauses
trustworthy source(s)
visualize
voice (consistent/appropriate)
website
Grade 11

acknowledge/address opposing viewpoint/counterclaims
address potential
counterarguments/opposing claims
affix
analysis
antonym
argument
audience (as in writer's audience)
author's intent
author's point of view
author's purpose
bias
blog
capitalization
central idea
character's action/
characters' interaction
claim
clarify claims/counterclaims
compare/contrast
colon/semi-colon
comparison
conclude/conclusion
conclusion drawn
concrete details/words/
phrases/language
conflict/tension
context
contradict
conventions
counterarguments
counterclaim
credible/credibility
develop ideas (evidence/
elaboration)
dialogue
effective use of
analogy/metaphor/simile
essay
establish a claim
evidence
excerpt
explanatory article/text/
essay/writing
flashback
grammar usage
hypothesis
inclusion
inconsistent information
(research)
infer/inference(s)/inference(s)
made
integrate information/ideas
interaction
interpretation
justify
logical progression of idea
mood
multiple meanings
narrative
opposing claim
organization
parallel structure/parallelism
paraphrase/paraphrasing
perspective
phrases/clauses
plagiarism/plagiarize/
plagiarizing
position
precise/concise language
presentation
punctuation
purpose (e.g., author's or
speaker's purpose)
purpose for writing (explanatory,
argumentative, narrative writing)
quotation
reference sources
relevant/irrelevant
relevant supporting evidence
resolve/resolution
root word
sensory language
setting
shifts in narrator's perspective
stanza
style
summarize
synonym
techniques (e.g. exaggeration,
repetition, making a comparison,
including a question)
text structures
(compare/contrast; cause effect;
problem/solution; pro/con)
theme
thesis/controlling idea
tone
transition words/phrases/
clauses/sentences/paragraphs
viewpoint/point of view
voice (consistent use of verb
voice)