

Word Wall

A *Word Wall* is a collection of words which is posted in large visible letters on a wall, bulletin board, or other display surface in a classroom. In math and science classrooms, the purpose is to identify words and phrases that students must learn in order to successfully master content. Vocabulary development is critical because students need to be able to read, write, and talk about concepts and skills using content specific math or science terms to promote deep understanding rather than simple surface knowledge. An effective *Word Wall* is much more than a list of vocabulary terms stuck somewhere taking up wall space; it is an interactive reference tool that students use in their work as they learn individually and in groups.

How to implement the strategy (Summarizing):

1. Identify vocabulary terms that are essential to the content being studied. As students become well-versed in the use of the Wall, involve them in identifying the terms.
2. Always introduce new terms in context. Vocabulary should not be taught in isolation.
3. Words should be written in large letters and posted where they can easily be seen.
4. Refer to the Wall regularly during instruction, and encourage students to use it during individual or group work.
5. Arrange words by unit or concept to help students see how they are connected. Word cards may also have pictures or examples related to the vocabulary term.

Adapted from:

- Harvey, S. & Goudvis, A. (2000). *Strategies That Work: Teaching Comprehension for Understanding and Engagement, 2nd Ed.* Portland ME. Stenhouse Publishers.
- Math Word Wall. Retrieved from:
<http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/studentssupport/ese/PDF/MathWordWall.pdf>