

K. S. Schaefer's

War of the Words

Arm Yourself with Words and Become a Word Warrior!

Rationale:

Consider this passage from *Bringing Words to Life: Robust Vocabulary Instruction* by Isabel L. Beck, Margaret G. McKeown, and Linda Kucan:

"A rich vocabulary supports learning about the world, encountering new ideas, enjoying the beauty of language. A rich vocabulary enhances an interview, allows one to see the humor in wordplay, shores up what an individual wants to say, and especially, wants to write. It is clear that a large and rich vocabulary is the hallmark of an educated individual. Indeed, a large vocabulary repertoire facilitates becoming an educated person to the extent that vocabulary knowledge is strongly related to reading proficiency in particular and school achievement in general."

The Competition:

This semester you will take part in an inter-class competition to expand vocabulary knowledge and usage, thus improving literacy. Students will be divided into 5 teams and the team earning the most vocabulary points by the end of the semester will earn a prize and good ole bragging rights. New vocabulary words will appear on a classroom bulletin board titled, "Fighting Words." Students will practice and be assessed over these words. The list will change every couple of weeks. As you master the words, you earn points for your team. A leader board will appear outside of Mrs. Schaefer's classroom on the large bulletin board. The board will feature each team and its members and will indicate the leading team for the week, as well as individual leaders. In addition, leaders will be listed on Mrs. Schaefer's homepage. Individual and team progress and success will be emailed home as well.

How to earn points:

1. Complete practice assignments (formative grades)
2. Complete vocabulary spelling practice (formative grades)
3. Complete quizzes (summative grades)
4. Participate in all-class vocabulary Jams!
5. Use words properly in class discussion
6. Use words properly in speeches
7. Bonus points - Provide proof of out-of-class exposure (explained in class)