



word
generation
Join the National Conversation!

Evidence that classroom discussion improves literacy is abundant. Word Generation supports teachers by providing debatable questions together with evidence from which to argue.

–Dr. Catherine Snow, Harvard University

Word Generation has not only provided our middle school teachers with a cross-content, systematic approach to word acquisition but it has also acted as a back door into interdisciplinary teaming structures/routines for looking at student work to make instructional decisions; it has been a powerful lever for building internal coherence in schools that often struggle with operationalizing their mission/vision.

– Jenna Shumsky, New York City Middle School Quality Initiative

Read. Discuss. Debate. Write.

Word Generation is a set of Tier 1, research-based curricular resources designed for use across content areas in grades 4–8. It places heavy emphasis on 21st century learning goals, including academic language, argumentation, analytic reasoning, reading to find evidence, oral discussion, and writing. Each unit introduces approximately 5–10 high-utility academic “focus words” and begins with an engaging text that introduces multiple perspectives on a high-interest topic. While the units have moments of direct instruction, much of the learning comes from carefully scaffolded academic discussion and debates, providing students opportunities to draw on accumulated knowledge and apply new knowledge. Students read, discuss, debate, and write about each topic using the focus words.

- ▶ **Developed by teams of researchers and practitioners**
- ▶ **Tested in a broad range of classrooms**
- ▶ **Promotes academic vocabulary and deep text comprehension skills when systematically implemented**
- ▶ **Boosts the quality of classroom discussion**

FOUR INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT ACADEMIC LITERACY AND PRACTICES

WordGen WEEKLY

Grades 6, 7 & 8

72 one-week units organized around a social or civic dilemma

Each unit contains five brief activities for ELA, math, science, and social studies

WordGen ELEMENTARY

Grades 4 & 5

24 two-week units organized around a central question

Each unit contains a variety of texts, word-learning activities, writing tasks, and debate and/or discussion opportunities

Social Studies Generation

Grades 6, 7 & 8

18 one-week in-depth units focused on topics covered in SS content standards

Each unit contains supplementary materials for other content area classes

Science Generation

Grades 6, 7 & 8

18 one-week in-depth units focused on topics covered in science content standards

Each unit contains supplementary materials for other content area classes

ALL MATERIALS AND TEACHER SUPPORTS FREELY AVAILABLE!

wordgen.serpmedia.org

Development of Word Generation was led by Catherine Snow (Harvard University) through a SERP collaboration with the Boston Public Schools and other districts in Massachusetts and Maryland.

Support for Word Generation was provided by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Noyce Foundation, the Spencer Foundation, the Leon Lowenstein Foundation and the Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education through grant numbers R305A090555 and R305F100026. The information provided does not represent views of the funders.