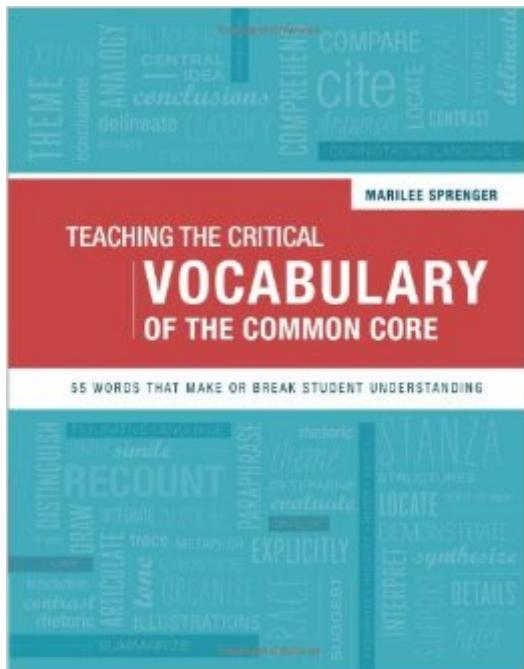


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# Teaching The Critical Vocabulary Of The Common Core: 55 Words That Make Or Break Student Understanding



## **Synopsis**

Your students may recognize words like determine, analyze, and distinguish, but do they understand these words well enough to quickly and completely answer a standardized test question? For example, can they respond to a question that says "determine the point of view of John Adams in his 'Letter on Thomas Jefferson' and analyze how he distinguishes his position from an alternative approach articulated by Thomas Jefferson"? Students from kindergarten to 12th grade can learn to compare and contrast, to describe and explain, if they are taught these words explicitly. Marilee Sprenger has curated a list of the critical words students must know to be successful with the Common Core State Standards and any other standardized assessment they encounter. Fun strategies such as jingles, movements, and graphic organizers will engage students and make learning these critical words enjoyable and effective. Learning the critical vocabulary will help your students with testing and college and career readiness, and will equip them with confidence in reading, writing, and speaking.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

My colleagues and I have been overwhelmed with changes in the standards. This book may save our sanity. "What do we do first?" Has been the question resonating in the halls. Now we have a starting point. Sprenger's book provides the vocabulary words found in the Common Core State Standards that will be used in the upcoming new assessments. As a middle school teacher, I know that many of my students do not know these words. I can use the pre-assessments in the book at

the beginning of the year and find out which words I need to teach. Change is hard, and now I have an easy way to begin the change to the new standards. These are "testing" words, many of which are critical thinking processes, and that is the cornerstone of the new standards. This book will guide me as my students learn to use higher level thinking.

I was awaiting the release of this book since I heard Sprenger speak at the ASCD Conference in Chicago. It was worth the wait. I am hoping my principal will order books for each staff member. This will be the basis of my vocabulary lessons this year as we prepare for the Common Core. I know by teaching these words, I will also be teaching higher level thinking, the basis for the PARCC and Smarter Balanced Assessments. I highly recommend this book!

Sprenger did an awesome job of making the case for why we need to find the time to intentionally and meaningfully teach the critical vocabulary, and then went the extra mile to give great strategies for ALL of the vocab our students need to be fluent in to successfully navigate the Common Core. Well done.

Great resource! Would recommend it to anyone who teaches reading. This book covers all of those "I don't understand what it's asking me to do" words, like analyze, evaluate, infer, summarize/paraphrase, synthesize, distinguish, integrate, and many more. I love how it also breaks down different nouns, such as analogy, mood, tone, theme, point of view, central idea, and structure, and provides definitions, games, jingles, and graphics for each one. It's definitely a resource you don't want to be without!

Great ideas. Easy to follow. Teacher friendly. Lots of info thatl have used in my classroom. I compared the verbs and nouns she lists for each grade level and they are dead on. Love this resource.

Oh, why didn't find this resource 4 years ago? It would have saved me a lot of time and energy. A great resource for any classroom as you try to tackle teaching your CCSS at any grade level. I am glad I bought it.

After using the pretest within the book, I was shocked to find how many vocab words my students did not know. I'm using the activities in the book to build academic fluency and my students seem to

enjoy them.

This is a wonderful resource! Activities included for each word are helpful. I feel my 6th graders are better prepared to answer the PARCC questions since they will understand what the question is asking.

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