



THE COMMON LANGUAGE OF LITERACY

ANALYZE - break down a problem or situation into separate parts or relationships and examine each part.

ANNOTATE - To make critical comments or explanatory notes

APPLY - Relate a particular idea to a given subject.

COMPARE - Use examples to show how things are different, with greater emphasis on the similarities.

CONTRAST - Use examples to show how things are different in one or more important ways.

DEFINE - Clarify meaning by giving a clear, concise definition of a term. Generally, to define consists of identifying the class to which a term belongs and telling how it differs from other things in that class.

DESCRIBE - Give a detailed sketch or impression of the subject or topic.

DIFFERENTIATE - to perceive the difference two or more items

DISCUSS - Examine and talk about all sides of a subject or issue in a carefully organized manner.

EVALUATE - Present your opinion and judgment of something and apply that criteria to specific examples.

EXPLAIN - Make clear how something (or someone) works, what something (or someone) is like, or why something happens or works the way it does. This term is similar to discuss, but places more emphasis on cause-effect relationships or step-by-step sequences.

ILLUSTRATE - Give examples as a means of explaining your thinking.

PREDICT - Explain what you think will happen.

PROVE - Bring out the truth by providing evidence and facts to back up a point.

RELEVANT – Having a connection or bearing to the matter at hand.

SIMPLIFY-to make less complex or complicated; make plainer or easier

SOLVE -to find the answer or explanation for; clear up; explain:

STATE - Present a brief, concise statement of a position, fact, or point of view.

SUMMARIZE - Present the main points, of an issue in a shortened form. Details, illustration and examples are usually not given.

SYNTHESIZE- to combine multiple ideas, opinions and/or evidence into a complex whole

THESIS - The main idea of an essay, report, speech, or research paper, sometimes written as a single declarative sentence. A thesis may be implied rather than stated directly.

TRACE - Present in step-by-step sequence a series of facts or events that are somehow related. Usually the facts are presented chronologically to show the development of the subject.

TRANSITION - The connection or movement between two parts of a piece of writing, (a word, phrase, clause, sentence, or entire paragraph) contributing to structure and organization.