

LAFS ELA Standards & Academic Language, Spring 2018

RI 1.1: Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

Academic words (part of speech)	Definition	Synonyms
Cite (v.)	to quote a person or literary source; to mention in support or show proof; a way of referring when using examples.	indicate, name, offer, present, specify
Evidence (n.)	something that proves or disproves something/someone else; something that makes plain or clear; sign.	clue, data, indication, information, source, testimony
Support (v.) & (n.)	(v.): to bear or hold up, serving as a foundation; (n.): person or thing that gives aid or assistance.	back, groundwork, guide, means, reinforce
Analysis (n.)	the separating of something whole into its original pieces.	break down, piece, reasoning, section, separate
Text (n.)	the actual wording of anything written or printed.	content, document, idea, paragraph, line, passage, source
Says (v.)	to speak or express something in words; declare; to state something as an opinion or judgment.	assert, claim, convey, express, mention, respond, state, suggest, tell
Inferences (n.)	the process of coming to a conclusion(s).	assumption, conjecture, guess, hint interpretation
Drawn (v.)	to come to a decision or resolution; decide.	check, decide, learn, settle, verify

RI 1.2: Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.

Academic words (part of speech)	Definition	Synonyms
Determine (v.)	to come to a decision or resolution; decide.	check, decide, figure out, learn, settle, verify
Idea (n.)	any concept existing in the mind as a result of mental understanding, awareness, or activity; an opinion, view, or belief.	belief, concept, design, form, intention, plan, scheme, theory, thought, view
Text (n.)	the actual wording of anything written or printed.	content, document, idea, paragraph, line, passage, source
Analyze (v.)	to separate (as in opposing sides or claims) into parts or categories; determine the elements or essential features of someone or something; to examine carefully and in detail so as to identify causes, key factors or possible results or effects.	consider, dissect, examine, figure out, investigate, study
Development (v.)	to bring out the capabilities or possibilities of; bring to a more advanced or effective state; a significant consequence or event.	elaborate, evolve, expand, grow, improvement, progress
Course (n.)	the continuous passage or progress through time or a succession of stages; a customary manner of procedure; regular or natural order of events.	line, plan, policy, procedure, series, way
Emerges (v.)	to come forth into view or notice, as from concealment or obscurity; to come up or arise, as a question or difficulty.	appear, loom, materialize, rise show, surface
Shaped (v.)	to come to a desired conclusion or take place in a specified way; to adjust or adapt.	assemble, build, frame, produce
Refined (v.)	to make distinctions in thought or language.	changes, clarify
Details (n.)	Small pieces of information that can be gathered in support of a whole or idea.	examples, particulars, specifics
Summary (n.)	A brief, comprehensive way of writing the main points of an article, passage or report using facts & statements.	analysis, outline, review, synopsis, version

RI 1.3: Analyze how the author unfolds an analysis or series of ideas or events, including the order in which the points are made, how they are introduced and developed, and the connections that are drawn between them.

Academic words (part of speech)	Definition	Synonyms
Analyze (v.)	to separate (as in opposing sides or claims) into parts or categories; determine the elements or essential features of someone or something; to examine carefully and in detail so as to identify causes, key factors or possible results, etc.	consider, dissect, examine, figure out, investigate, study
Author (n.)	A person who writes novels, poems, articles or other literary works.	writer, novelist
Unfolds (v.)	to reveal or disclose in words, especially by careful or systematic writing.	develop, explain, display, open, set forth, spread, stretch out
Series (n.)	a group or number of related things or events arranged or occurring in a certain way or order.	array, list, sequence, set
Idea(s)	any concept existing in the mind as a result of mental understanding, awareness, or activity; an opinion, view, or belief.	belief, concept, design, form, intention, plan, scheme, theory, thought, view
Events (n.)	when something happens or is regarded as happening; an occurrence, especially one of some importance.	act, case celebration, episode, incident, matter, occasion, situation
Order (n.)	the disposition of things following one after another, as in space or time; succession or sequence.	chronological, classification, form placement
Points (n.)	as regards; in reference to; that is pertinent; applicable.	detail, element, extent
Introduced (v.)	to suggest, propose, or advance for or as if for the first time.	offer, recommend, submit
Develop (v.)	to bring out the capabilities or possibilities of; bring to a more advanced or effective state; a significant consequence or event.	elaborate, evolve, expand, grow, improvement, progress
Connections (n.)	association with or development of something observed, imagined, or discussed.	network, relationship
Drawn (v.)	to come to a decision or resolution; decide.	check, learn, settle, verify

RI 2.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone (e.g., how the language of a court opinion differs from that of a newspaper).

Academic words (part of speech)	Definition	Synonyms
Determine (v.)	to come to a decision or resolution; decide.	check, decide, figure out, learn, settle, verify
Meaning (n.)	What is intended to be, or actually is, expressed or indicated.	context, definition, interpretation, significance, understanding
Words (n.)	a unit of language, consisting of one or more spoken sounds or their written representation, that functions as a principal carrier of meaning.	spoken, written, language
Phrases (n.)	a sequence of two or more words arranged in a grammatical construction and acting as a unit in a sentence.	expression, idiom, remark, terminology
Text (n.)	the actual wording of anything written or printed.	content, document, idea, paragraph, line, passage, source
Analyze (v.)	to separate (as in opposing sides or claims) into parts or categories; determine the elements or essential features of someone or something; to examine carefully and in detail so as to identify causes, key factors or possible results, etc.	consider, dissect, examine, figure out, investigate, study
Impact (n.)	how something or someone is influenced or results in a certain effect upon one or more persons or things.	contact, encounter
Choices (n.)	something that is preferred or preferable to others; the best part of something.	alternative, option, preference, variety
Tone (n.)	a particular quality, way of sounding, modulation, or intonation of the voice or writer as expressive of some meaning, feeling, spirit, etc.	accent, emphasis

RI 2.5: Analyze in detail how an author’s ideas or claims are developed and refined by particular sentences, paragraphs, or larger portions of a text (e.g., a section or chapter).

Academic words (part of speech)	Definition	Synonyms
Analyze (v.)	to separate (as in opposing sides or claims) into parts or categories; determine the elements or essential features of someone or something; to examine carefully and in detail so as to identify causes, key factors or possible results, etc.	consider, dissect, examine, figure out, investigate, study
Detail (n.)	Small pieces of information that can be gathered in support of a whole or idea.	examples, particulars, specifics
Claims (n.)	an assertion of something as a fact; however, claims can be disproven based on stronger evidence.	demand, plea, request
Develop (v.)	to bring out the capabilities or possibilities of; bring to a more advanced or effective state.	elaborate, evolve, expand, grow, improvement, progress
Refine (v.)	to make distinctions in thought or language.	changes, clarify, distinguish
Portions (n.)	a part of any whole, either separated from or integrated with it.	allocation, excerpt, fraction, section
Text (n.)	the actual wording of anything written or printed.	content, document, idea, paragraph, line, passage, source
Chapter (n.)	a main division of a book, usually bearing a number or title.	episode, unit

Notes: text organization is how authors organize the main points within informational texts using the following structures: cause-effect, compare/contrast, descriptive, problem-solution, sequencing.

RI 2.6: Determine an author’s point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how an author uses rhetoric to advance that point of view or purpose.

Academic words (part of speech)	Definition	Synonyms
Determine (v.)	to come to a decision or resolution; decide.	check, decide, figure out, learn, settle, verify
Author (n.)	a person who writes novels, poems, articles or other literary works.	writer, novelist
Point of view (n.)	a position of the writer in relation to the article, indicated by the writer's tone from which the events are stated.	attitude, opinion, perspective, position, standpoint, viewpoint
Purpose (n.)	a reason for which something exists or is done, made or used.	desire, function, goal, objective, reason, target
Analyze (v.)	to separate (as in opposing sides or claims) into parts or categories; determine the elements or essential features of someone or something; to examine carefully and in detail so as to identify causes, key factors or possible results, etc.	consider, dissect, examine, figure out, investigate, study
Uses (v.)	to employ for some purpose; put into service; make use of.	benefit, handles, practice, serves
Rhetoric (n.)	the study of the effective use of language; the art of influencing the thought and conduct of an audience or reader.	discourse
Advance (v.)	to bring into consideration or notice; suggest; propose.	forward, leaning, toward

RI 3.7: Analyze various accounts of a subject told in different mediums (e.g., a person’s life story in both print and multimedia), determining which details are emphasized in each account.

Academic words (part of speech)	Definition	Synonyms
Analyze (v.)	to separate (as in opposing sides or claims) into parts or categories; determine the elements or essential features of someone or something; to examine carefully and in detail so as to identify causes, key factors or possible results, etc.	consider, dissect, examine, figure out, investigate, study
Account(s) (n.)	oral or written description of particular events or situations; narrative.	explanation, narrative, report, version
Subject (n.)	that which forms a basic matter of thought, discussion, investigation.	item, problem, topic
Mediums (n.)	a middle state or condition; something intermediate in nature or degree.	instrument, mechanism, tool
Multimedia (n.)	A combination of any audio, literary, video & online sources to present an argument or state a claim.	
Determining (v.)	to come to a decision or resolution; decide.	check, decide, figure out, learn, settle, verify
Details (n.)	Small pieces of information that can be gathered in support of a whole or idea.	examples, particulars, specifics
Emphasized (v.)	to lay stress upon, often by using a change in voice (verbal) by repeating major points within a passage (written).	assert, highlight, reiterate, repeat, underline

RI 3.8: Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is valid and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; identify false statements and fallacious reasoning.

Academic words (part of speech)	Definition	Synonyms
Delineate (v.)	to trace, sketch or outline a text.	characterize, define, depict, portray, represent
Evaluate (v.)	to judge or determine the importance, worth or quality of evidence in a text.	assess, calculate, classify, measure
Argument (n.)	a discussion involving different points of view, positions or claims.	assertion, claim, contention, plea, reasoning
Claim (n.)	when something is asserted or maintained as a fact.	case, demand, interest, petition
Text (n.)	the actual wording of anything written or printed.	content, document, idea, paragraph, line, passage, source
Assessing (v.)	To estimate or judge the value of people, things or ideas.	determine, estimate, gauge, judge, weigh
Reasoning (n.)	The process of forming conclusions, judgments or inferences from facts.	analysis, argument, inference, critical thinking, interpretation
Evidence (n.)	something that proves or disproves something/someone else; something that makes plain or clear; sign.	clue, data, indication, information, source, testimony
Identify (v.)	To recognize or establish as being a particular person or thing.	analyze, diagnose, establish, recognize
Statements (n.)	Communication is speech or in writing using facts, opinions or particulars.	comments, remarks

RI 3.9: Analyze seminal U.S. documents of historical and literary significance (e.g., Washington’s Farewell Address, the Gettysburg Address, Roosevelt’s Four Freedoms speech, King’s “Letter from Birmingham Jail”), including how they address related themes and concepts.

Academic words (part of speech)	Definition	Synonyms
Analyze (v.)	to separate (as in opposing sides or claims) into parts or categories; determine the elements or essential features of someone or something; to examine carefully and in detail so as to identify causes, key factors or possible results, etc.	consider, dissect, examine, figure out, investigate, study
Significance (n.)	Someone or something that is really important.	clout, influence, magnitude, prestige
Address (v.)	To direct someone’s attention; to deal with or discuss.	dispatch, discuss, forward, label, send
Speech (n.)	a form of communication in spoken language, made by a speaker before an audience for a given purpose.	conversation, dialogue, discussion
Including (v.)	to contain, as a whole does parts.	gather, group
Related (v.)	to tell; give an account of (an event, circumstance, etc.); to bring into or establish association or connection.	affiliated, akin, analogous, linked, parallel, same, similarities
Themes (n.)	a subject of discourse, discussion; topic; a unifying or dominant idea or message from one or more written sources.	message
Concepts (n.)	an idea of something formed by mentally combining all its characteristics or particulars.	image, notion, perception, theory, view