

THE A-LIST: Essential Academic Words

Created by Jim Burke

1	Analyze break down • deconstruct • examine	break something down methodically into its parts
2	Argue claim • persuade • propose	provide reasons or evidence to support or oppose
3	Compare/Contrast delineate • differentiate • distinguish	identify similarities or differences between items
4	Describe illustrate • report • represent	report what one observes or does
5	Determine establish • identify • resolve	consider all possible options, perspectives, results
6	Develop formulate • generate • elaborate	improve the quality or substance of
7	Evaluate assess • figure out • gauge	establish value, amount, importance, or effectiveness
8	Explain clarify • demonstrate • discuss	provide reasons for what happened or for one's actions
9	Imagine anticipate • hypothesize • predict	form a picture in one's mind; speculate or predict
10	Integrate combine • incorporate • synthesize	make whole by combining the different parts into one
11	Interpret conclude • infer • translate	draw from a text or data set some meaning or significance
12	Organize arrange • classify • form	arrange or put in order
13	Summarize outline • paraphrase • report	retell the essential details of what happened
14	Support cite • justify • maintain	offer evidence or data in order to illustrate your point
15	Transform alter • change • convert	change in form, function, or nature to reveal or emphasize

The College Board's **SOAPSTone Reading Strategy**

Speaker	The voice that tells the story. The author and the speaker are NOT necessarily the same. An author may choose to tell the story from any number of different points of view. In non-fiction consider important facts about speaker that will help assess his/her point of view / position.
Occasion	The time and place of the piece; the context that encouraged the writing to happen. Writing does not occur in a vacuum. There is the <u>larger occasion</u> : an environment of ideas and emotions that swirl around a broad issue. Then there is the <u>immediate occasion</u> : an event or situation that catches the writer's attention and triggers a response.
Audience	The group of readers to whom this piece is directed. The audience may be one person, a small group, or a large group; it may be a certain person or a certain people.
Purpose	The reason behind the text. Consider the purpose of the text in order to examine the argument and its logic. You should ask yourself, "What does the speaker want the audience to think or do as a result of reading this text?"
Subject	The general topic, content, and ideas contained in the text. You should be able to state the subject in a few words or a phrase.
Tone	The attitude of the author. The spoken word can convey the speaker's attitude, and, thus, help to impart meaning, through tone of voice. With the written work, it is tone that extends meaning beyond the literal. Tone can be determined by examining the author's <u>diction</u> (choice of words), <u>syntax</u> (sentence construction), and <u>imagery</u> (vivid descriptions that appeal to the senses).

