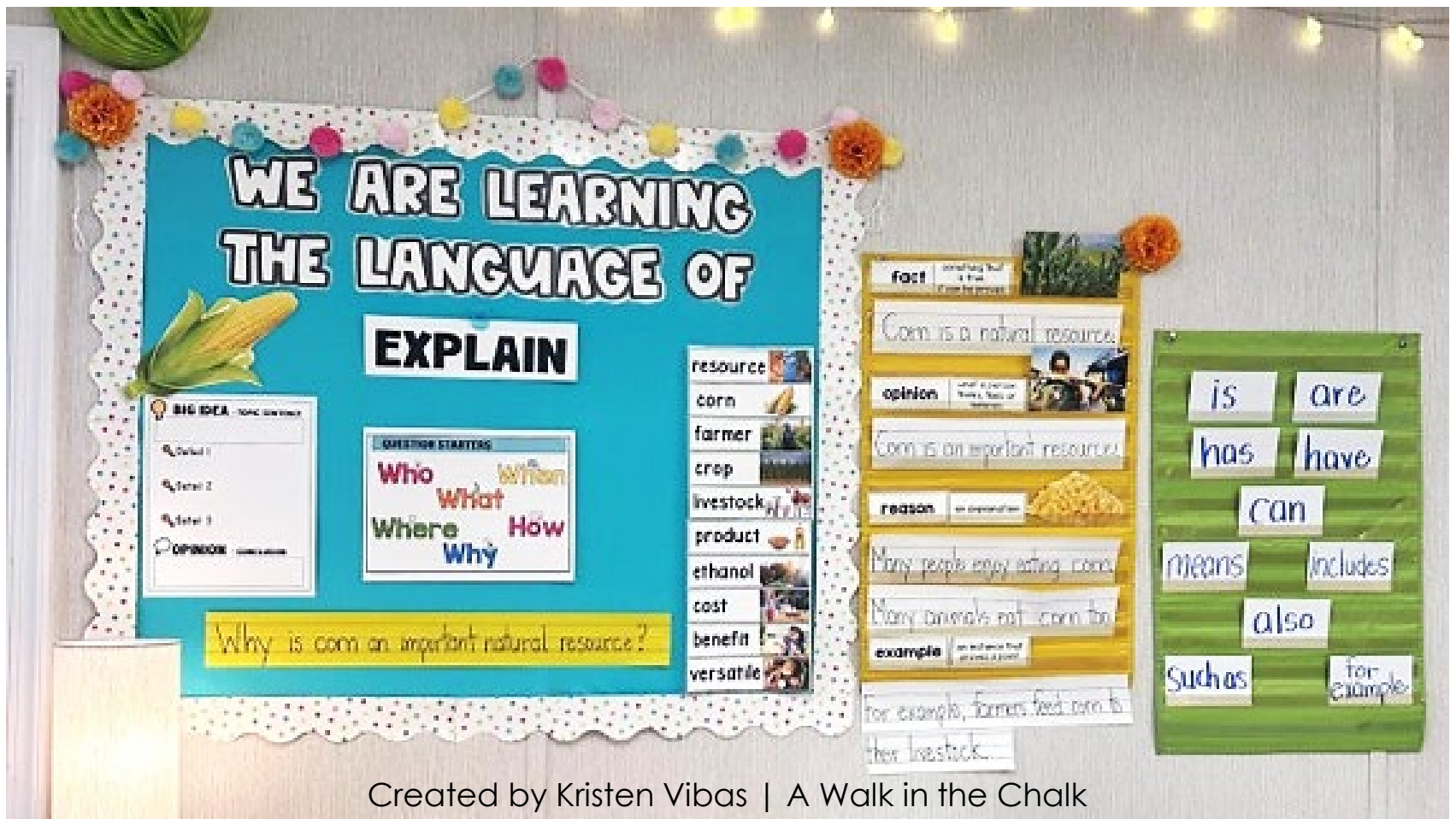


LANGUAGE FUNCTION BOARD

- Planning Guide -

A FRAMEWORK FOR MAKING LANGUAGE VISIBLE IN EVERY UNIT



WHAT'S INCLUDED



- ✓ Step-by-Step Planning Guide
- ✓ Language Function Board Checklist
- ✓ Signal Words by Function
- ✓ Introducing a New LF Board
- ✓ Classroom Board Examples
- ✓ Editable Vocabulary Card Templates
- ✓ Free Board Heading Download



A SIMPLE PLANNING PROCESS

LANGUAGE FUNCTION KEY WORDS

Key Words, or signal words, are the vocabulary words specific to a language function.

Sequencing, for example, uses words such as first, next, then and finally to perform its function. Teaching and modeling key word usage is an important component of any language function unit.

Language Function	Key/Signal Words
Sequence	first, to start, in the beginning, next, then, later, after, finally, lastly, in the end, before, after that, meanwhile
Cause and Effect (Explain)	because, so, since, due to, one reason, if/then, as a result, led to, therefore, causes, caused, effect, affects
Opinion	in my opinion, I think, I feel, I believe, one reason, for/against, best/worst, I agree, I disagree, my favorite, should, should not

LANGUAGE FUNCTION GRAPHIC ORGANIZER SUGGESTIONS

Including a graphic organizer on the language function board provides an example of how language is structured with the function, as well as, how students will show their understanding and use of it.

Language Function	Go-To Organizer
Describe	Concept Web
Sequence	Timeline
Cause & Effect	Cause & Effect Chart
Opinion	Opinion & Reasons Organizer
Persuade	OREO Organizer
Compare	
Contrast	
Explain	
Inquire	
Classify	
Summarize	
Predict	

LANGUAGE FUNCTION BOARD PLANNING GUIDE

1 Identify the Learning Target

By the end of the unit, or lesson, what will students need to do?

Examples:
Students will explain seasonal effects on plants and animals.
Students will persuade others to protect the earth.
Students will compare and contrast habitats.
Students will summarize events leading up to the American Revolution.
Students will describe the stages of a life cycle in sequential order.

Key Words and Phrases

Sequence
first
next
then
afterwards
finally

Describe
is/are
has/have
can
includes
is able to

Signal/Key Words

Vocabulary

Students must understand to discuss the topic

Tier 2	Tier 3

Examples

Use a frame that can be referenced by all students.
Use frames during instruction for individual groups, but post a reference frame on the LF board.

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Question

This may or may not be included ON the LF board, but it should be posted somewhere in the room for reference throughout the unit/lesson. This is an essential question that's reviewed throughout the unit and answered by the end.
Example: Why should people help protect the earth?

LANGUAGE FUNCTION BOARD CHECKLIST

Core Components

- ☐ Language Function Board Header: "We are learning the language of"
- ☐ Language Function
 - Describe
 - Explain
 - Compare/Contrast
 - Sequence
- Persuade
- Retell
- Inquiry
- Cause/Effect
- Classify
- Summarize
- Opinion
- Justify
- ☐ Key/Signal Words
- ☐ Academic (Content) Vocabulary
- ☐ Visuals that support the function and/or content

Additional Supports

- ☐ Sentence Frame(s)
- ☐ Essential/Guiding Question
- ☐ Graphic Organizer aligned to the function
 - Examples:
 - Compare/Contrast
 - Sequence → Timeline
- ☐ Content Specific
- ☐ Grammar Support

Note: Not every Language Function board will help students reach the target.

Making Language Visible

EXAMPLE BOARDS

Real classroom examples across multiple language functions ✨

EXAMPLE LANGUAGE FUNCTION BOARDS

Language Function Board Header

Signal/Key Words

Grammar

Language Function Header

describe to tell what something is like

Sentence Frame(s)

Academic (Content) Vocabulary

What do I know about this topic?

Graphic Organizers

Visuals

content diagrams

WE ARE LEARNING THE LANGUAGE OF

EXPLAIN

Guiding Question: Why is fairness important?

Why do laws change? Laws change because...

rights laws

Who What When Why How

If your instructional space is small, or wall space limited, pick and choose the components that'll be the most essential supports for reaching the learning target.

problem solution

cause effect

Children worked in factories. They got sick or hurt.

Certain groups did not have the same rights as others. People worked hard to change laws.

Since as a result due to because so

Vocabulary

Constitution

amendment

government

delegate

protest

equality

freedom

fairness

Then find alternative ways to provide additional supports, either in a smaller handout, student note pages or small pocket charts.

Kristen Vibas © A Walk in the Chalk



VOCABULARY CARD TEMPLATES



Create Content Vocabulary Cards
with premade templates

independence (noun)	
	Free to make your own choices

independence (noun)	Meaning: Free to make your own choices
	Sentence: The colonists wanted independence from Great Britain.

3 template options



PERFECT FOR

- ✓ ESL/ESOL/ELD TEACHERS
- ✓ CLASSROOM TEACHERS OF MLS
- ✓ INSTRUCTIONAL COACHES
- ✓ TEACHERS SUPPORTING
MULTILINGUAL LEARNERS



A planning & instructional guide
designed to help make language visible
throughout a unit of study

