

## Academic Language Frequently Used in Instruction

Instruction Word	Kid-Friendly Definition	Academic Language / Vocabulary Needed for This Prompt
Analyze	Break something down into parts and explain the different parts.	The reason why, most important, another
Compare	Show how things are the same and different. Use examples and details.	Also, just like, too, both, likewise, similarly, in the same way
Contrast	Show how two things are different. Use examples and details.	However, whereas, although, instead of, on the other hand
Critique	Show the good and the bad points of something.	Despite, although, apart from, whereas, in spite of this
Define	Give the meaning of a word.	Means, refers to, consists of
Describe	Write about something so it can be pictured in the reader's mind. Tell how it happened or what it looks like.	To illustrate, for example, is like, such as
Diagram	Make a drawing and label its parts.	
Discuss	Use important characteristics and main points to give a complete and detailed answer.	A key feature, important to note, a significant factor
Enumerate	List or count off examples, reasons effects one by one.	First, secondly, next, another
Evaluate	Give your opinion of something and describe its strengths and weaknesses, good and bad points.	I believe, I think, I feel, because, since, for example, for instance
Explain	Give the meaning of something. Use facts and details to make it easy to understand.	Consists of, to illustrate, for example, is like, in other words, the following, because
Illustrate	Make an idea or point clear by giving examples.	For example, for instance, such as, just as, in the same way as
Interpret	Describe the importance of something. Explain the results or effects of something.	Because, so that, due to, consequently, resulting from
Justify	Give reasons to support an action, event or decision	Because, so that, in order to, since
Outline	List the important points of something.	First of all, secondly, lastly, next, another, most importantly
Persuade	Give good reasons for someone to do or believe something.	Essential, necessary, vital, in order to, so that
Prove	Show something is true by using facts or logic.	Supported by, research shows, since, because
Relate	Describe how things are similar or connected,	Similarly, in that, equally so, in the same way
Respond	Give your reaction to something and support your opinion with reasons or examples from the text.	I believe, I think, I feel, because, since, for example, for instance
Specify	Tell exactly what you think.	
State	Give the main ideas in brief form.	The main idea is, the reason, most importantly
Summarize	Give the main ideas in paragraph form.	The summary, finally, the main idea is, the author states that
Trace	Tell about an event in the order it happened.	First, second (etc.) following, after, then, subsequently