

WordGen WEEKLY



Grades 6-8

72 week-long units on high-interest topics

Developed by teams of researchers and practitioners

Tested in a broad range of classrooms

Promotes academic vocabulary and deep text comprehension skills when systematically implemented

Boosts the quality of classroom discussion

FEATURES:

- Three "series" (years) of materials, with 24 one-week units per series
- Series/units can be used in any order
- Units focus on social or civic dilemmas
- Five connected 15-20 minute activities for ELA, math, science, and social studies
- Five academic "focus words" emphasized per week

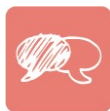
Sample Topics:

- Is the death penalty justified?
- Who is responsible for childhood obesity?
- Should school be a place for debate?
- When is it okay to lie?

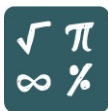


Interdisciplinary Program to Support Academic Literacy and Practices

WordGen Weekly (the "original" Word Generation program) is a supplementary curricular resource that offers a series of discussable dilemmas designed to promote academic language and other academic practices prioritized in the 21st century learning standards. The program is unique in its cross-disciplinary design, giving teachers of ELA, science, social studies, and math the chance to collaborate on the shared goal of helping students use academic language to articulate their thinking. Each series (or individual units) can be used school-wide in grades 6-8.



Monday:
Launch Passage



Tuesday:
Math Problem



Wednesday:
Science Activity



Thursday:
Class Debate



Friday:
Writing Task

All student and teacher curriculum materials freely available!
serpinstitute.org/wordgen-weekly

WordGen Professional Learning Series

Flexible online professional development that prepares educators to launch and use WordGen Weekly through a year-long sequence of sessions exploring WordGen practices and implementation

Development of Word Generation was led by Catherine Snow (Harvard University) through a SERP collaboration with the Boston Public Schools and other districts in Massachusetts and Maryland.

Support for Word Generation was provided by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Noyce Foundation, the Spencer Foundation, the Leon Lowenstein Foundation and the Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education through grant numbers R305A090555 and R305F100026. The information provided does not represent views of the funders.

Word Generation has not only provided our middle school teachers with a cross-content, systematic approach to word acquisition but it has also acted as a back door into interdisciplinary teaming structures/routines for looking at student work to make instructional decisions; it has been a powerful lever for building internal coherence in schools that often struggle with operationalizing their mission/vision.

Jenna Shumsky, New York City Middle School Quality Initiative