

## Grades 4 & 5

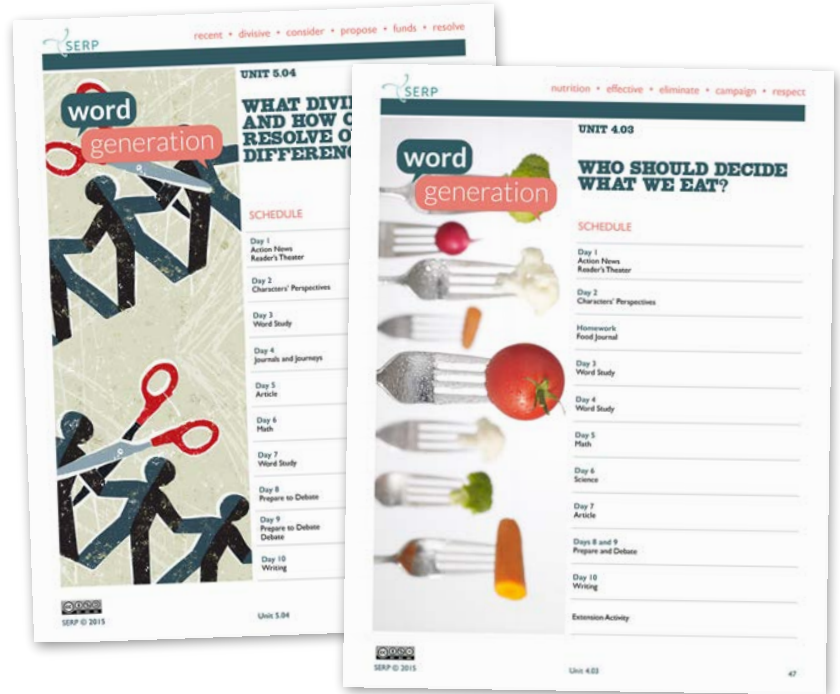
- 24 two-week units organized around a central question
- Developed by teams of researchers and practitioners
- Tested in a broad range of classrooms
- Promotes academic vocabulary and deep text comprehension skills when systematically implemented
- Boosts the quality of classroom discussion

### Instructional activities that support content-area knowledge:

- Action News
- Reader's Theater
- Word Study
- Informational Text
- Math and Science Activities
- Discussion/Debate
- Writing

### Sample Topics:

- What is fair?
- Who should decide what we eat?
- When is it acceptable to break the rules?
- Where do I belong?
- Why do we fight?
- Do we need laws to regulate our behavior?



## Interdisciplinary Program to Support Academic Literacy and Practices

Word Generation for grades 4 and 5 is comprised of twelve two-week units for each grade, with 40-50 minute lessons each day. It expands students' background knowledge and academic vocabulary, while emphasizing 21st century learning practices such as argumentation, analytic reasoning, perspective taking, reading to find evidence, discussion, and writing.

Each unit introduces approximately 5-6 high-utility academic "focus words" and is designed to offer a variety of texts, word-learning activities, writing tasks, and debate and/or discussion opportunities. Each unit begins with a video newscast and a "Reader's Theater" that introduces multiple perspectives on a high-interest topic. Students read, discuss, debate, and write about each topic, using the focus words.

All student and teacher curriculum materials freely available!  
[serpinstitute.org/wordgen-elementary](http://serpinstitute.org/wordgen-elementary)

### 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 WordGen Elementary was provided by the Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education through grant number R305F100026. The information provided does not represent views of the funders.



*Evidence that classroom discussion improves literacy is abundant. Word Generation supports teachers by providing debatable questions together with evidence from which to argue.*

Dr. Catherine Snow, Harvard University