

South Lewis “Tip  
of the Month”



January  
'16

The  
Importance  
of  
Vocabulary

# POWERFUL Instruction

Remember that many of our students come from economically disadvantaged families, which puts them at an increased risk of having a limited vocabulary. A student may appear to be a struggling learner. The reality may simply be he/she is highly capable, but they don't understand some of the words you are using, so they are struggling to keep up.

Research indicates that student achievement will increase by 12% when students are directly taught 10-12 random new vocabulary words per week.

However, student achievement will increase by 33% if the vocabulary they are taught is focused on specific words that connect and are important to what students are learning in class.

Make sure you are regularly thinking about the vocabulary you are using in your current units and topics. Select 10-12 words to go over with the students, but don't choose so many words that it's overwhelming. Provide the definitions of each word, point out when the words are used in the context of what you are teaching, and require students to use the words in their conversations and draw images to visually store the words in their brains.

Being strategic about selecting and including vocabulary in your weekly planning is critical.