

MIDDLE SCHOOL SLANG DICTIONARY ELA ACTIVITY

Challenge students to create their own dictionary with current teen slang! They'll have to develop definitions, figure out which part of speech their words are, and more. This is a fantastic language arts activity for middle schoolers.

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WRITE YOUR OWN DICTIONARY

Did you know that words change meaning over time? Definitions of words do not stay constant. They change as people use words in different ways. For example, "cool" used to be an adjective used only to refer to temperature, but now it also describes something that is good or even amazing.

Your Assignment: Create your own dictionary with the words that people your age use! Don't crash out, because this won't be hard. Just think about the words you use every day and you'll be cooking.

How to Start: Make a list of all the words and phrases that you and your friends use. Then think about how to define those words and phrases. You cannot use the word to define the word. For example, you can't say that "lit" means "something is lit." You could say that "lit means "awesome, high-energy, and fun."

What Each Entry Must Have: Include the part of speech for each word or phrase. This means to label it as a noun, adjective, verb, or adverb. Some words will have more than one definition with more than one part of speech. For example, "cooked" is an adjective that means "defeated, in serious trouble, or doomed." However, "cooking" is a verb that means, "doing an amazing job" or "succeeding at something."

Write a sentence that demonstrates the correct use of the word.

Example Entry:

Locked in - adjective. To be in a state of active participation, concentrating and getting a lot done.

Jacob was really locked in on his math homework today.

Lock in - verb. To focus and participate.

My coach told me today that I needed to lock in, so I put my earbuds away and started listening to everything he said.



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