CCRS Teacher Workout

Finding Academic Vocabulary in a Text

Time needed: 20-35 minutes

Goals:
- Compare online tools to identify academic vocabulary in a text

Materials
- Internet connected devices
- An electronic copy of a sample text (suggestion provided below)

Introduction
1. Turn and talk: How do you decide which words from a text to pre-teach? Do you use any online tools to identify academic vocabulary?

Practice
2. Demonstrate how to use the EAP Foundation AWL highlighter which finds word from the old Academic Word List:
   a. Go to this site: https://www.eapfoundation.com/vocab/academic/highlighter/
   b. Copy and paste a text into the box and click submit. You could use this text from NEWSELA (free log in required) about religious fasting: https://newsela.com/read/religious-fasting/id/2001006165/
   c. Note that this AWL highlighter will highlight words from the *old* Academic Word List.
3. Repeat step 2 with the demonstration with the *new* AWL list: https://www.eapfoundation.com/vocab/academic/nawlhighlighter/
4. Repeat step 2 with Tom Cobb's Word FInder: https://www.lextutor.ca/vp/eng/
   a. Note that this word finder finds words in the first 1000 and second 1000 most common written words as well as the old AWL.
5. All participants try the three word finders, noting similarities and differences.

Wrap Up
6. Turn and talk: What are the differences between the three word finders? Which word finder do you prefer and why?