Dear Teacher,

The vocabulary list on the following pages is drawn from the “Not Fit for Human Consumption” student article and “How Much Do You Know About Synthetic Drugs?” worksheet.

This vocabulary can be previewed with students prior to reading or reinforced with students afterward. Encourage students to incorporate these words into their writing and discussion of the article and worksheet.

The vocabulary list integrates vocabulary words that would be used across several content areas, such as consumption, legitimate, and misleading, and domain-specific words, such as opioid, stimulant, and synthetic.

Some suggestions for students to help their understanding include:

- organizing concept maps that include word parts, synonyms, antonyms, and examples;
- composing memory aids that explain the words or use them in a meaningful context;
- employing the words to create newspaper articles, stories, or poems.

Sources: Unless otherwise noted, definitions are sourced or adapted from: Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary and Scholastic Children’s Dictionary.
**addiction (noun)**: a brain disorder or illness associated with compulsive (uncontrollable) behavior, such as drug use, despite negative consequences

**addictive (adjective)**: something, such as a drug, that causes changes to the brain that result in compulsive (uncontrollable) behavior despite negative consequences

**amphetamine (noun)**: a type of stimulant drug that increases certain brain activity

**anxiety (noun)**: a feeling of fear or worry

**“bath salts” (noun)**: a name given to a drug made from synthetic cathinones

**cannabinoid (noun)**: a chemical that is found naturally in hemp plants and causes changes in the brain and behavior

**cathinone (noun)**: a chemical found naturally in the leaves of the khat plant that increases certain activity in the brain and nervous system

**chemical (noun)**: a substance, such as an element or a mix of elements (compound), that is made by a chemical process

**consumption (noun)**: the act of eating, drinking, or using up something

**counterfeit (adjective)**: made in imitation of something else with the goal of deceiving or cheating

**craving (noun)**: an intense or abnormal desire for something

**dependent (adjective)**: having a need for a drug because of repeated use so that physical withdrawal symptoms are experienced if the drug is removed

**designed (adjective)**: created to have a certain purpose or function

**disguised (adjective)**: having the true state or character concealed or hidden

**distributor (noun)**: a company that buys products from one company and arranges for other companies or individuals to sell them

**dose (noun)**: the measured amount of a chemical such as a drug to be taken at one time

**ensure (verb)**: to make sure

**fentanyl (noun)**: an opioid drug made in laboratories that is much stronger (50 to 100 times) than other legal opioids. It is prescribed only to treat very severe pain.

**hallucination (noun)**: the perception of objects that are not real

**hydrocodone (noun)**: an opioid drug that is used as a painkiller and prescribed by doctors for moderate to severe pain

**illegal (adjective)**: against the law

**ingredient (noun)**: something that is a part of a combination or mixture

**K2 (noun)**: the name sometimes given to a drug made from dried plant leaves sprayed with synthetic cannabinoid chemicals that are similar to THC

**laboratory (noun)**: a place where scientific experiments are done or products such as drugs are made

**legal (adjective)**: allowed by the law

**legitimate (adjective)**: being exactly as described, not false

**marijuana (noun)**: dried leaves and flowers of the hemp plant which can be used as a drug

**MDMA (Ecstasy or Molly) (noun)**: an illegal stimulant drug that gives feelings of pleasure and excitement

**medication (noun)**: a chemical or substance that is used to treat a disease or medical condition

**misleading (adjective)**: giving the wrong idea or inaccurate information about something, usually on purpose

**misuse (verb)**: to use something in a way that is unintended or harmful, such as misuse of a prescription drug

*Continued on next page.*
morphine (noun): an opioid drug that is used as a painkiller and is prescribed by doctors for moderate to severe pain

natural (adjective): existing in or produced by nature

Norco (noun): a brand-name version of the drug hydrocodone

official (adjective): of or having to do with someone in a position of authority

opioid (noun): one of a group of drugs that produce relaxation, pleasure, and pain relief. Opioids can be addictive and potentially deadly due to overdoses.

overdose (noun): a lethal or toxic amount of a drug; (verb): to take a lethal or toxic amount of a drug

paranoia (noun): a tendency for extreme and unreasonable distrust or suspicion of other people

pose (verb): to present or create

potent (adjective): having a powerful effect

potentially (adverb): possibly, but not yet actual

prescribe (verb): to write or give medical instructions, such as regarding the use of certain medications

prescription drug (noun): a medication that must be ordered by a doctor before it can be dispensed

regulate (verb): to bring under control of the law or rules

regulation (noun): a rule that deals with details and procedures, such as those that are used to make sure something is safe

respond (verb): to react to something

retailer (noun): of or having to do with the sale of goods directly to customers

risk (noun): the possibility of loss or injury; danger

seizure (noun): a sudden attack caused by abnormal activity in the brain that causes convulsions or loss of consciousness

severe (adjective): of a great degree

Spice (noun): the name sometimes given to a drug made from dried plant leaves sprayed with synthetic cannabinoid chemicals that are similar to THC

stimulant (noun): a drug that causes a temporary increase in activity in parts of the brain and body

substance (noun): a material with a specific chemical makeup

surge (verb): to rise suddenly to an excessive or abnormal amount

synthetic (adjective): produced by a chemical process

THC (noun): a type of natural cannabinoid chemical that is the main active ingredient in marijuana

treat (verb): to care for or deal with medically; to act upon something with an agent such as a chemical to improve or alter

undergo (verb): to go through or experience

unpredictable (adjective): not able to be known in advance

unregulated (adjective): not controlled by rules or methods that are used to make sure certain standards of safety or quality are met

version (noun): a different form or type of something