

VOCABULARY LIST

GRADES 6–12

Dear Teacher,

The vocabulary list on the following pages is drawn from the “Be a Science Fact-Checker” student article and the “Can You Spot Misleading News?” worksheet.

It can be previewed with students prior to reading or reinforced with students afterward. Encourage students to incorporate these words into their discussions and writing about the student article and worksheet.

This list integrates vocabulary words that would be used across several content areas, such as *analyze*, *legitimate*, and *misleading*, as well as domain-specific words, such as *addiction*, *dependence*, and *method*.

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*.

Supplement for “Be a Science Fact-Checker”

- Student Article: [scholastic.com/headsup/sciencefactchecker](https://www.scholastic.com/headsup/sciencefactchecker)
- Teacher’s Guide (includes worksheet): [scholastic.com/headsup/teachers/sciencefactchecker](https://www.scholastic.com/headsup/teachers/sciencefactchecker)

accurate (*adjective*): free from mistakes or errors

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 results in compulsive (uncontrollable) behavior despite negative consequences

analyze (*verb*): to study or examine something closely or carefully in order to understand it

benefit (*noun*): something that produces good or helpful effects

bias (*noun*): an attitude that always favors one way of thinking or feeling

cited (*adjective*): referred to

claim (*verb*): to state something as true; (*noun*): something that is stated as true

cocaine (*noun*): an addictive illegal drug that produces a temporary increase in alertness and feelings of pleasure

compare (*verb*): to examine one or more things in order to find similarities or differences

conclusion (*noun*): a final decision based on reasoning

conduct (*verb*): to direct or take part in the management of

consequence (*noun*): something caused by a set of conditions

contribute (*verb*): to play a part in an end or result

crisis (*noun*): a situation that has reached an unstable point and that has a high chance of having a negative outcome

critical (*adjective*): important or necessary

critically (*adverb*): using careful judgment

data (*noun*): information such as measurements that are used as a basis for making conclusions

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

develop (*verb*): to grow or cause something to grow larger or more advanced

documentation (*noun*): records or materials used to prove or show something

evaluate (*verb*): to determine the importance, value, or condition of something by carefully analyzing it

evidence (*noun*): something that gives proof or a reason to believe something

exaggerated (*adjective*): overstated beyond the truth

heroin (*noun*): an illegal opioid drug that has no medical use

inaccurate (*adjective*): containing mistakes

interpret (*verb*): to explain or tell the meaning of

investigate (*verb*): to study closely

journal (*noun*): a magazine or periodical that reports on things related to a specific topic

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

limitation (*noun*): something that controls how much of something is possible or allowed

method (*noun*): a process, way, or technique for doing something

misleading (*adjective*): giving the wrong idea; making you believe something that is not true

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

navigate (*verb*): to make one’s way over or through; to steer through

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.

opposed (*adjective*): completely different from

outcome (*noun*): something that comes about as an effect or end

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

oversee (*verb*): to watch over or direct

peer (*noun*): one belonging to the same group based on age or status

persuade (*verb*): to win over to a certain belief or position

physical (*adjective*): of or relating to the body

precaution (*noun*): an action taken to avoid a dangerous situation or to lead to a positive result

present (*verb*): to bring to one’s attention

procedure (*noun*): a particular way of doing something

provide (*verb*): to supply or make available

publish (*verb*): to produce or prepare for the public to see

related (*adjective*): having a close connection

relevant (*adjective*): having something to do with the matter at hand

reliable (*adjective*): able to be believed

reputable (*adjective*): respected and trusted by most people

research (*noun*): a careful study, experiment, or collection of information that has the goal of finding and reporting new knowledge

result (*noun*): something determined by an investigation or calculation

review (*verb*): to go over or examine carefully

rigorous (*adjective*): done carefully with a large amount of attention to detail

scan (*verb*): to look over quickly

scroll (*verb*): to move up or down or across a display screen

skeptical (*adjective*): relating to or marked by doubt

source (*noun*): a person, book, or document that is used as a reference

support (*verb*): to provide proof or evidence for

treat (*verb*): to care for or deal with medically

treatment (*noun*): the act or matter of caring for or dealing with medically

ultimately (*adverb*): in the end