

# VOCABULARY LIST

## GRADES 6-12

### Dear Teacher,

The vocabulary list on the following pages is drawn from the “Do Genes Cause Addiction?” student article and “Who Is at Risk?” work sheet.

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 both the article and the work sheet.

The vocabulary list integrates two different tiers of vocabulary words that would be used across several content areas, such as *distinct*, *manipulate*, and *susceptible*, and domain-specific words, such as *DNA*, *gene*, and *protein*.

#### Some suggestions for students to help their understanding:

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

Sources: Unless otherwise noted, definitions below are sourced or adapted from *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate dictionary* and *Scholastic Children's Dictionary*

The image displays two educational resources. On the left is a student article titled "HOW DO GENES AFFECT ADDICTION?" with a colorful illustration of people on a path. On the right is a work sheet titled "TRACKING GENES" featuring a pedigree chart and a legend. The article includes sections like "Risk Doesn't Equal Addiction", "Genes and Heredity", and "Future Treatments". The work sheet includes a legend for symbols used in the pedigree chart and a section for tracking genes.

### Supplement for: “How Do Genes Affect Addiction?”

- Student Article: [scholastic.com/headsup/how\\_do\\_genes\\_affect\\_addiction](https://www.scholastic.com/headsup/how_do_genes_affect_addiction)
- Teacher’s Guide (includes work sheet): [scholastic.com/headsup/how\\_do\\_genes\\_affect\\_addiction](https://www.scholastic.com/headsup/how_do_genes_affect_addiction)

Continue to vocabulary sheet on next page.

**activate** (*verb*): to make active or more active

**addicted** (*adjective*): having a compulsive (uncontrollable) behavior, such as drug use, that continues despite negative consequences

**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

**adolescence** (*noun*): the period of life when a child develops into an adult

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

**bind** (*verb*): to attach to something

**biological** (*adjective*): of or having to do with living things and their processes

**cell** (*noun*): the smallest unit that makes up a living organism. Some organisms are made of only one cell, but others, like humans, are made of trillions of cells.

**characteristic** (*noun*): a quality or trait that exists in a person, group, or thing

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

**distinct** (*adjective*): different or separate

**DNA** (*noun*): the molecule found in cells that carries instructions for cell structure and processes in the body. DNA contains genes that are passed on from parents to offspring and gives living things their inherited characteristics. The letters DNA stand for deoxyribonucleic acid.

**environmental** (*adjective*): of or having to do with the objects and conditions in a set of surroundings

**factor** (*noun*): something that helps to cause a result

**gene** (*noun*): a small section of DNA that contains the instructions for making a protein or proteins that control the processes that occur in the body's cells.

**genetic** (*adjective*): relating to, caused by, or controlled by genes

**genetics** (*noun*): the genetic makeup of an organism, a group of organisms, or a condition. Also, the scientific study of the ways that personal characteristics are passed from one generation to another through genes.

**hereditary** (*adjective*): passed on or able to be passed on from parent to offspring through genes

**heredity** (*noun*): the process by which genes and traits are passed from parent to offspring

**influence** (*verb*): to affect or change the properties or development of something

**inherit** (*verb*): to receive from a parent through the transmission (passing on) of genes

**interact** (*verb*): to act upon one another

**likelihood** (*noun*): probability of occurring

**makeup** (*noun*): the way in which the parts of something are put together

**manipulate** (*verb*): to control, use, or change something in a skillful way

**nicotine** (*noun*): the addictive chemical found in tobacco

**pedigree** (*noun*): the history of a family's genes or traits. Pedigrees are represented in a chart and indicate how traits are passed on from parent to offspring.

**potentially** (*adverb*): possible; being able to occur or develop

**prevent** (*verb*): to stop from happening

**protective** (*adjective*): providing a shield or cover from harm or damage

**protein** (*noun*): a substance found in all living things that is made of amino acids, which are composed mainly of nitrogen, carbon, oxygen, and hydrogen. Proteins have specific functions and are involved in nearly all important cell processes.

**reduce** (*verb*): to make smaller in size, amount, or number

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

**segment** (*noun*): one of the parts into which something is divided

**slight** (*adjective*): small

**strategy** (*noun*): a plan or method for reaching a certain goal

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

**supervision** (*noun*): the action of watching over and directing something or someone

**susceptible** (*adjective*): open or particularly prone to something

**trait** (*noun*): a quality or characteristic that makes one person different over another.

**transition** (*noun*): a change from one state, stage, or place to another

**variant** (*noun*): something that shows a difference from other things of the same type

**vulnerability** (*noun*): the state of being exposed or open to danger or harm