4 Types of Academic Language

Based on WIDA’s Can Do Descriptors Key Uses Edition

**Recount**
Display knowledge, narrate experiences or events

**Explain**
Clarify the “why” or the “how” of ideas, actions, or phenomena

**Argue**
Persuade by making claims supported by evidence

**Discuss**
Interact with others to build meaning and share knowledge

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**Examples of the Key Uses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recount</th>
<th>Explain</th>
<th>Argue</th>
<th>Discuss</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- summarize stories&lt;br&gt;- describe a process&lt;br&gt;- share past experiences&lt;br&gt;- produce informational report&lt;br&gt;- identify the features of a concept</td>
<td>- present how a system works&lt;br&gt;- show the relationship between cause and effects&lt;br&gt;- describe the consequences of actions or events&lt;br&gt;- describe factors that contribute to an event or a phenomena&lt;br&gt;- demonstrate the steps in a process</td>
<td>- state opinions &amp; providing justification&lt;br&gt;- form claims supported by evidence&lt;br&gt;- critique the reasoning &amp; ideas others&lt;br&gt;- persuade others to take action or believe in an idea</td>
<td>- contribute ideas to a conversation&lt;br&gt;- construct meaning with others&lt;br&gt;- ask &amp; answer questions&lt;br&gt;- offer suggestions&lt;br&gt;- defend opinions&lt;br&gt;- share perspectives</td>
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