lilyPD
Grab-N-Go

General Field Note Instructions

Goal: The goal of a language field guide is to document your discoveries about words as you explore them over time.

A language field note should fill a page in your notebook. A language field note:

Must...	**Might...**
❏ Write down a definition **in your own words using multiple meanings of the word** ❏ Include the part of speech ❏ Include sentences *from professionals* that use your word. ❏ Include some kind of image. ❏ Synthesize your new understanding of the word in a "My thoughts" or "My analysis" or "My synthesis" section. This would be where you make sense of all you've learned throughout your exploration.	☐ Pronunciation (what the word sounds like) ☐ Parts of other words (roots, prefixes,suffixes) you see in this word. ☐ How frequently this word is used (Is is rarely used? Is it a frequently-used, every day word?) ☐ Synonyms and antonyms ☐ How is your word different than a synonym or fuzzynym? (For example: "Smart" and "intelligent" -- how are these words DIFFERENT?) ☐ Emotional connotation (is it a happy word? Sad word? Emotionally-neutral word?) ☐ Related words / other forms of the word ☐ Words that frequently go with this word in a sentence ☐ Situations in which you might use this word ☐ Professional sentences that use this word ☐ Places you encounter this word (or some form of it) -- in what you read, watch, listen to, in other classes, etc. ☐ Translation of this word in another language you speak (Spanish) -- how does that enlarge your understanding

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	of the word? ☐ Search Google News -- In what ways does the news use this word? What patterns do you see? (In other words, "The news often uses this word in articles about _____"). ☐ Skim the articles. What additional knowledge do you gain? ☐ Connections between your word and other words in your field guide ☐ Connections between your word and other words/concepts from other classes ☐ Connection to YOUR life -- when has this word been applicable in your life? When do you see an example of this word in your life?

Resources to Help You:

- **Grown ups!** Ask them what they know about the word. Ask them to use the word in a sentence. Ask them situations they associate this word with.
- **Vocabulary.com** -- give the word with multiple definitions and professional pieces of writing that use the word. This will show you how frequently this word is used.
- **M-w.com** - Definition, examples, frequency
- **Niftyword.com** -- associated words, related words, roots/prefixes/suffixes
- **Lexipedia.com** -- different versions and forms of your word, synonyms, antonyms, "fuzzynyms" (words that mean *kind of* the same thing)
- **Etymonline.com** - my favorite site for understanding where a word comes from and how the meaning has developed over time.
- **WebstersDictionary1828.com** -- This is an online edition of the Webster's Dictionary from the year 1828! Use this to see how the word USED to be used (if it was even a word in 1828!) to compare it to how it is used today!
- **https://books.google.com/ngrams/ –** See the use of a word over time.

Language Field Guide Rubric

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An amazing field guide entry...	A good field guide entry...	A “meh” field guide entry...
...will demonstrate tons of exploration and discovery about the word because it will be FULL of writing and sketching. It will demonstrate many different ways of thinking about the word and breaking it down. It might even invent new ways to think about the word that we haven’t thought of yet.	...will demonstrate an acceptable amount of exploration and discovery about the word because it will more or less fill a notebook page with writing and sketching. It will use a handful of different tools for thinking about the word.	...will demonstrate a bit of exploration and discovery about the word. The notebook page will be half filled or less with writing and thinking. Only a few tools will have been used to think about the word.

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