

Key Words

What do each of these words mean? Match to the best definition.

Discuss
Compare
List/identify

Describe
Contrast

Define
Evaluate/Assess

Analyze
Explain

_____ EXPLAIN – Explore possible causal relationships – identify and discuss logical connections or causal patterns that exist between or among ideas. *Make an idea clear. Show logically how a concept is developed. Give the reasons for an event.*

_____ ANALYZE – Separate an idea into its parts or characteristics as a way of understanding the big picture, the whole. Draw clear conclusions that are explained and supported by using specific evidence or well-reasoned arguments. *Break into separate parts and discuss, examine, or interpret each part.*

_____ COMPARE - Make specific links between two or more concepts. *Identify similarities and differences.*

_____ LIST/IDENTIFY – Simple enumeration or listing of some factors or characteristics. Could be bulleted or numbered.

_____ DESCRIBE – Provide a depiction or portrayal of an idea or its most significant characteristics. More than simply listing facts. May show what, why, how, cause/effect.

_____ DISCUSS - Explore relationships between different concepts or ideas. May include identifying, describing, and explaining. *Consider and debate or argue the pros and cons of an issue.*

_____ EVALUATE/ASSESS – Consider how well something meets a certain standard – generally requires a thesis. Identify criteria used, whether given in the question or as decided by student. Make explicit connections between the thesis or argument and the supporting evidence. *Consider or examine in order to judge value, quality, importance, extent, or condition.*

_____ DEFINE – Provide a meaning for a word or a concept in its given context. Examples help to demonstrate understanding. May also note importance or significance.

_____ CONTRAST – Make specific links between two or more concepts. *Show differences. Set in opposition.*