



The Content Enhancement Series

2006

The University of Kansas

Center for Research on Learning

Lawrence, Kansas

The Clarifying Routine

What is the Clarifying Routine?

- A means to teach **important terms** within the context of regular instruction to **retain them long-term**.
- A way to “revisit” and solidify or add depth to student knowledge of terms introduced or taught in a lesson.

The Clarifying Table

Is a visual device that:

- Can be used in place of traditional flash cards.
- Is used initially under teacher guidance to give meaning to a vocabulary **word, person, event, or other item (place/process)**.
- **Focuses attention on the importance behind the word, person, or event central to current study now and throughout the semester.**

The Clarifying Table

Is a visual device that:

- Identifies clarifiers for the term, accomplishments of the person, or significant facts about the event.
- Links learning to previous knowledge connections.
- Promotes higher-order thinking by identifying examples and non-examples.
- Designed to help students understand the meaning of the term by talking about information related to it, connecting their own knowledge and experience to it, and using it in a variety of ways.

① Term

③ Core idea

⑤ Use it to describe...
 Example of...

② Clarifiers

④ Knowledge connections

⑥ Don't confuse it with...
 Not an example of...

⑦ Example sentence

① Term
emancipate

③ Core idea

The Term

The name of the vocabulary word,
person, place, or event to be learned.

The choice of the word is dictated by
what is considered important for all
students to understand and remember.

- ⑤ Use it to
 Example

• When slaves
free because
Civil War

- ⑥ Don't c
 Not an e

• When slaves
before the C

⑦ Example sentence

Nearly 4 million Southern slaves were emancipated because of the Civil War.

ctions

brother

re into an

n his

Willy”

ee



Example Terms for Clarifying Tables

Vocabulary Words

- cravat
- isotope
- allegory
- fresco

People

- Thomas Jefferson
- Albert Einstein
- Mark Twain
- Leonardo da Vinci

What doesn't
work?
Look and
Remember
Rote Verbal
Practice

Example Terms for Clarifying Tables

Places

- Northwest Territory
- Hiroshima
- Parthenon
- Sistine Chapel

Events

- Lewis & Clark Expedition
- Treaty on Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons
- Bombing of Pearl Harbor
- Texas Revolution

Term emancipate

③ Core idea

The act of setting free

⑤ Use it to describe...

Example of...

- When slaves were set free because of the Civil War

⑥ Don't confuse it with...

Not an example of...

- When slaves ran away before the Civil War.

⑦ Example sentence

Nearly 4 million Southern slaves were emancipated because of the Civil War.

② Clarifiers

- To liberate.
- To release from slavery, oppression, or authority

④ Knowledge connections

- My parents gave my brother their blessing to move into an apartment and live on his

Clarifiers

- Details about the term that clarify the term's meaning.

Questions for Determining the Clarifiers

When the term is a vocabulary word:

- What other words describe this term?
- What words are synonyms for this term?
- What do students need to know about this term to fully understand its meaning?

Questions for Determining the Clarifiers

When the term is the name of a person:

- What were this person's most significant accomplishments?
- Which of these accomplishments are critical to an understanding of this person and this unit?

Questions for Determining the Clarifiers

When the term is the name of a place:

- What are the facts surrounding this place that make it important for students to remember?
- What happened here that makes this place significant to this unit?

Questions for Determining the Clarifiers

When the term is the name of an event:

- What are the most important facts surrounding this event?
- Which of these facts do I want students to remember?

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② **Clarifiers**

④ **Knowledge connections**

...my brother
...move into an
...ive on his
...e "Willy"
...e "Free"

Core Idea

A statement that is either a brief definition of the term or a summary of its primary importance.

⑦ **Example sentence**

Nearly 4 million Southern slaves were emancipated because of the Civil War.

Questions for Determining the Core Idea

When the term is a vocabulary word:

- How can I summarize the meaning of this term in just a few words??

Questions for Determining the Core Idea

When the term is the name of a person:

- What do I want students to remember this person for?
- Why is he or she important to this unit, to the present time, and to the future?

Questions for Determining the Core Idea

When the term is the name of a place:

- Why is this place significant?
- What does it represent to this lesson, unit, or course?
- How does it relate to students' lives now and in the future?

Questions for Determining the Core Idea

When the term is the name of an event:

- Why do I want students to remember this event?
- What does it represent to this lesson, unit, or course?
- How does it relate to current events?

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- ⑤ Use it to describe...
 Example of...

② **Clarifiers**

④ **Knowledge connections**

Knowledge Connections

- ⑥
- A statement that shows relevance of the word to the students' lives.
 - A statement that contains information that students already possess about the word.

- My parents gave my brother their blessing to move into an apartment and live on his own.
- Setting the whale "Willy" free in the movie "Free Willy."

e Civil War.

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⑦ **Example sentence**

Nearly 4 million Southern slaves were

Use it to describe...

or

Example of...

A statement of correct usage

(or)

The name of the concept for
which the term serves as an
example.

Determining Correct Usage of a Vocabulary Word

the word is a noun, verb, or adjective.

Determining Correct Usage of a Vocabulary Word

For example, use the word:

revolution to describe America's War of Independence.

satire to describe the book Huckleberry Finn.

compliment to describe when a friend tells you that she likes your haircut.

Determining Correct Usage of a Vocabulary Word

For example, use the word:

abandon to describe when a person leaves his house and does not intend to return to it.

fortuitous to describe the event of having the winning lottery ticket.

subservient to describe how slaves acted toward their owners.

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which the term serves as an
example.

Determining Concepts for People

When the term is a person, complete the statement, "This person is an example of someone who..."

For example:

Martin Luther King is an example of a person who advocated change through peaceful resistance.

Determining Concepts for Places

When the term is a place, complete the statement, "The (name of place) is an example of a place that..."

For example:

The Berlin Wall is an example of a place that demonstrates government control.

Determining Concepts for Events

When the term is an event, complete the statement, "The (name of event) is an example of ..."

For example:

The Battle of the Bulge is an example of people refusing to give up despite the odds against them.

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⑦ **Example sentence**

Nearly 4 million Southern slaves were emancipated because of the Civil War.

Don't confuse it with...

or

Not an example of...

A statement of incorrect usage

(or)

The name of the concept for which the term does **not** serve as an example.

Determining Incorrect Usage of a Vocabulary Word

When the word is a noun, verb, or adjective, complete the statement, "Don't use this word to describe..."

Determining Incorrect Usage of a Vocabulary Word

For example, don't use the word:

revolution to describe America's involvement in Vietnam.

satire to describe Webster's Dictionary.

compliment to describe when a friend thanks you for doing something nice.

Determining Incorrect Usage of a Vocabulary Word

For example, don't use the word:

abandon to describe when a person leaves his house but intends to return.

fortuitous to describe earning \$200 for a week of hard work.

subservient to describe how slaves acted toward each other.

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Not an example of...

A statement of incorrect usage

(or)

The name of the concept for which the term does **not** serve as an example.

Determining Incorrect Usage of a Person

When the term is a person, complete the statement, "This person is not an example of someone who..."

For example:

Martin Luther King is not an example of someone who advocated change through violence.

Determining Incorrect Usage of a Place

When the term is a place, complete the statement, "The (name of place) is not an example of a place that..."

For example:

The Berlin Wall is not an example of a place that demonstrates government noninterference

Determining Incorrect Usage of an Event

When the term is an event, complete the statement, "The (name of event) is not an example of ..."

For example:

The Battle of the Bulge is not an example of people giving up when the odds are against them.

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② Clarifiers

- To liberate.

④ Knowledge connections

- My parents gave my brother

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Example Sentence

A sentence demonstrating the correct usage and the meaning of the term.

⑥ Don't confuse it with...

Not an example

- When slaves ran away

before the Civil War.

⑦ Example sentence

Nearly 4 million Southern slaves were emancipated because of the Civil War.

Example Sentence

- Students create a sentence in which the term is used and in which the meaning or importance of the term is demonstrated
- Give kids sentence starters to scaffold their sentence writing.
- “Oedipus is an example of a tragic hero because he doesn’t realize he married his mother until it is too late.”

Knowledge Connections

- Relate to something students already know or have experienced
- Belongs to the student
- Example prompts...
 - “This reminds me of....”
 - “This is like ...”
- Prompt students to explain their connection by elaborating
 - “what made you think of that...?”

Components of the Routine

The Clarifying Table

- But Why?*
- Ready to learn
 - Build WITH students
 - Check understanding

The Cue-Do-Review Sequence

The Linking Steps

The Purpose of the Linking Steps

Guide the teacher to:

- Present the information in the Clarifying Table to students in an effective manner.
- Involve students in constructing the Clarifying Table.
- Focus student attention on learning.

The Linking Steps

Designate the term

1. Explore the clarifiers

Figure out the core idea

2. Identify knowledge connections

3. Note its usage or concept

4. Explain what it's not

5. Set up an example sentence

How Many
Elaboration
Techniques?

5

Y'all Do

My guide book will
come in the mail... It
will have a script... I
have to read it word for
word?

When you finish your draft
you should share it with a
friend for feedback!!

Yah um NOPE