

1. Think back to your own early schooling. Do you remember having to look up definitions for vocabulary words? Do you feel you benefited from that experience? How will you teach vocabulary differently?

2. Design and discuss an ideal classroom environment in which meaning vocabulary acquisition could flourish. What, if anything, would you change in your design if you had many English learners in your classroom? Students with special needs? Why?

3. How would you explain your approach to vocabulary instruction to parents of your students? Pair up with another member of the class and role-play, presenting your explanation to a parent. Change roles and attempt to make a similar explanation to a teacher who believes only in having students memorize definitions.

4. How would you explain to a parent of an English learner the value of reading to his child in the home language?