Identifying Academic Words

Linguist Averil Coxhead developed this list of Tier One and Two words most frequently found in complex texts across content areas. The list, which contains "headwords," or the main words in each family of academic words, applies to Grades 2–12.

A	area	clause	constitute	demonstrate
abandon	aspect	code	constrain	denote
abstract	assemble	coherent	construct	deny
academy	assess	coincide	consult	depress
access	assign	collapse	consume	derive
accommodate	assist	colleague	contact	design
accompany	assume	commence	contemporary	despite
accumulate	assure	comment	context	detect
accurate	attach	commission	contract	deviate
achieve	attain	commit	contradict	device
acknowledge	attitude	commodity	contrary	devote
acquire	attribute	communicate	contrast	differentiate
adapt	author	community	contribute	dimension
adequate	authority	compatible	controversy	diminish
adjacent	automate	compensate	convene	discrete
adjust	available	compile	converse	discriminate
administration	aware	complement	convert	displace
adult	**B**	complex	convince	display
advocate	behalf	component	cooperate	dispose
affect	benefit	compound	coordinate	distinct
aggregate	bias	comprehensive	core	distort
aid	bond	comprise	corporate	distribute
albeit	brief	compute	correspond	diverse
allocate	bulk	conceive	couple	document
alter	**C**	concentrate	create	domain
alternative	capable	concept	credit	domestic
ambiguous	capacity	conclude	criteria	dominate
amend	category	concurrent	crucial	draft
analogy	cease	conduct	culture	drama
analyze	challenge	confer	currency	duration
annual	channel	confine	cycle	dynamic
anticipate	chapter	confirm	**D**	**E**
apparent	chart	conflict	data	economy
append	chemical	conform	debate	edit
appreciate	circumstance	consent	decade	element
approach	cite	consequent	decline	eliminate
appropriate	civil	considerable	deduce	emerge
approximate	clarify	consist	define	emphasis
arbitrary	classic	constant	definite	empirical

enable	final	implicate	invest	military
encounter	finance	implicit	investigate	minimal
energy	finite	imply	invoke	minimize
enforce	flexible	impose	involve	minimum
enhance	fluctuate	incentive	isolate	ministry
enormous	focus	incidence	issue	minor
ensure	format	incline	item	mode
entity	formula	income	**J**	modify
environment	forthcoming	incorporate	job	monitor
equate	found	index	journal	motive
equip	foundation	indicate	justify	mutual
equivalent	framework	individual	**L**	**N**
erode	function	induce	label	negate
error	fund	inevitable	labor	network
establish	fundamental	infer	layer	neutral
estate	furthermore	infrastructure	lecture	nevertheless
estimate	**G**	inherent	legal	nonetheless
ethic	gender	inhibit	legislate	norm
ethnic	generate	initial	levy	normal
evaluate	generation	initiate	liberal	notion
eventual	globe	injure	license	notwithstanding
evident	goal	innovate	likewise	nuclear
evolve	grade	input	link	**O**
exceed	grant	insert	locate	objective
exclude	guarantee	insight	logic	obtain
exhibit	guideline	inspect	**M**	obvious
expand	**H**	instance	maintain	occupy
expert	hence	institute	major	occur
explicit	hierarchy	instruct	manipulate	odd
exploit	highlight	integral	manual	offset
export	hypothesis	integrate	margin	ongoing
expose	**I**	integrity	mature	option
external	identical	intelligent	maximize	orient
extract	identify	intense	mechanism	outcome
F	ideology	interact	media	output
facilitate	ignorant	intermediate	mediate	overall
factor	illustrate	internal	medical	overlap
feature	image	interpret	medium	overseas
federal	immigrate	interval	mental	**P**
fee	impact	intervene	method	panel
file	implement	intrinsic	migrate	paradigm

Identifying Academic Words *(continued)*

paragraph	project	respond	statistic	trace
parallel	promote	restore	status	tradition
parameter	proportion	restrain	straightforward	transfer
participate	prospect	restrict	strategy	transform
partner	protocol	retain	stress	transit
passive	psychology	reveal	structure	transmit
perceive	publication	revenue	style	transport
percent	publish	reverse	submit	trend
period	purchase	revise	subordinate	trigger
persist	pursue	revolution	subsequent	**U**
perspective	**Q**	rigid	subsidy	ultimate
phase	qualitative	role	substitute	undergo
phenomenon	quote	route	successor	underlie
philosophy	**R**	**S**	sufficient	undertake
physical	radical	scenario	sum	uniform
plus	random	schedule	summary	unify
policy	range	scheme	supplement	unique
portion	ratio	scope	survey	utilize
pose	rational	section	survive	**V**
positive	react	sector	suspend	valid
potential	recover	secure	sustain	vary
practitioner	refine	seek	symbol	vehicle
precede	regime	select	**T**	version
precise	region	sequence	tape	via
predict	register	series	target	violate
predominant	regulate	sex	task	virtual
preliminary	reinforce	shift	team	visible
presume	reject	significant	technical	vision
previous	relax	similar	technique	visual
primary	release	simulate	technology	volume
prime	relevant	site	temporary	voluntary
principal	reluctance	so-called	tense	**W**
principle	rely	sole	terminate	welfare
prior	remove	source	text	whereas
proceed	require	somewhat	theme	whereby
priority	research	specific	theory	widespread
process	reside	specify	thereby	
professional	resolve	sphere	thesis	
prohibit	resource	stable	topic	