

Feature Analysis Grid

Major Focus: Vocabulary

Target Grade Level: 1st- College

Description:

Feature Analysis Grid is an instrumental strategy that helps students discriminate the unique features of concepts or vocabulary. It uses a classification system in the form of a grid to help students determine semantic similarities and differences among closely related concepts.

Procedure:

1. Introduce this strategy by selecting a topic. Make sure to select a topic that is familiar to many of the students.
2. List the words in the category down the left side of the grid. For example, using the topic Monsters, you could list *King Kong, Incredible Hulk, Dracula, Cookie Monsters, etc.* Ask students to add additional monsters they can think of.
3. Across the top of the chart, list features shared by some of the words in the category. In other words, characteristics they have in common. For example, Monsters might be *Hairy, Huge, Strong, Mean.*
4. Consider each word in the category relative to the features listed across the top of the grid. A plus/minus (+/-) system or numeric System (1=never, 2=some, 3=always) can be used to indicate feature possession. A question mark (?) can signal the need for more information. A plus/minus rating (+/-) indicates the feature may be present in differing degrees or at various times. In the Monsters example, King Kong would probably receive pluses (+) for the features, *Hairy, Huge, Strong and Mean*, but Incredible Hulk would receive a minus (-) for *Hairy*.