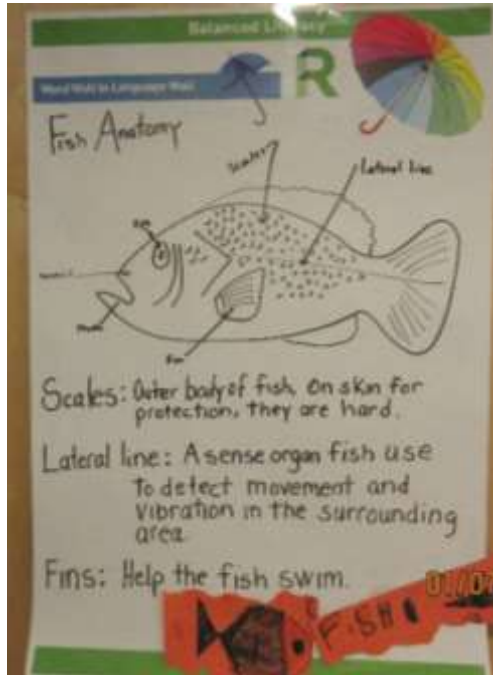




Word Walls to Language Walls



About Word Walls to Language Walls:

The word wall does not connect the word to a thought, the language wall does. These walls foster both social and academic discourse, allowing the teacher to document specific aspects of language and help rich conversations evolve and expand from single words to larger discourse.

The focus of a language wall is on language generation by the students which create new information and understanding about the world. Capture the discourse through words, images, photographs, and other means to communicate the ideas, concepts, and beliefs about the lesson being taught.

Tips for the Debate Centers:

- Pause during guided reading time and specifically highlight the discussion with the language wall.
- Use the walls for building vocabulary in all content areas
- Create games and procedure for language walls to become interactive.
- Use large sticky easel pads if you do not have a laminated poster.
- Place finished walls where they are accessible but not prominent.
- Use letters large enough for children to see from any seat.

Additional resources for Language Walls:

Find a printable language wall template and more examples on the literacy.roosevelt.edu website under Resources-Word Walls to Language Walls.

Check out Dr. Policastro's article *Word Walls to Language Walls: A Natural Evolution in the Balanced Literacy Classroom* (2015) for additional information about Language Walls and their benefits in literacy education.