

The Features of Academic Language in the WIDA Standards

The Features of Academic Language operate within sociocultural contexts for language use.

Dimension	Performance Criteria	Features
Discourse	Linguistic Complexity <i>(Quantity and variety of oral and written text in communication)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amount of speech/written text • Structure of speech/written text • Density of speech/written text • Coherence and cohesion of ideas • Variety of sentence types to form organized text
Sentence	Language Forms and Conventions <i>(Types, array, and use of language structures in communication)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types and variety of grammatical constructions • Mechanics of sentence types • Fluency of expression • Match language forms to purposes/perspectives • Formulaic and idiomatic expressions
Word/Phrase	Vocabulary Usage <i>(Specificity of word or phrase choice in communication)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General, specific, and technical language • Multiple meanings of words and phrases • Nuances and shades of meaning • Collocations and idioms

The sociocultural contexts for language use involve the interaction between the student and the language environment, encompassing the...

- Register
- Genre/Text type
- Topic
- Task/Situation
- Participants' identities and social roles