**The A-LIST: Essential Academic Words**

**Analyze** break something down methodically into its parts

**break down • deconstruct • examine**

1

2 **Argue** provide reasons or evidence to support or oppose

claim • persuade • propose

3 **Compare/Contrast** identify similarities or differences between items

delineate • differentiate • distinguish

4 **Describe** report what one observes or does

illustrate • report • represent

make a decision or arrive at a conclusion after considering all possible options, perspectives, or results

**establish • identify • define**

**Determine**

5

6 **Develop** improve the quality or substance of

formulate • generate • elaborate

**Evaluate** establish value, amount, importance, or effectiveness

**assess • figure out • gauge**

7

8 **Explain** provide reasons for what happened or one’s actions

clarify • demonstrate • discuss

**Imagine** create a picture in one’s mind; speculate or predict

**anticipate • hypothesize • predict**

9

10 **Integrate** make whole by combining the different parts into one

combine • incorporate • synthesize

**Interpret** draw from a text or data set some meaning or significance

**deduce • infer • translate**

11

12 **Organize** arrange or put in order

arrange • classify • form

**Summarize** retell the essential details of what happened

**outline • paraphrase • report**

13

14 **Support** offer evidence or data to illustrate your point

cite • justify • maintain

**Infer** reason out or conclude through use of clues

**educated guess • predict • imply**

16

**Transform** change in form, function, or nature to reveal or emphasize

**alter • change • convert**

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