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Please enjoy this complimentary excerpt from *Academic Moves for College and Career Readiness, Grades 6-12*, by Jim Burke and Barry Gilmore. You can post this list of essential academic words along with their definitions in your classroom or give a copy to every student.

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The A-LIST: Essential Academic Words

1	Analyze	break something down methodically into its parts break down • deconstruct • examine
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
5	Determine	make a decision or arrive at a conclusion after considering all possible options, perspectives, or results establish • identify • define
6	Develop	improve the quality or substance of formulate • generate • elaborate
7	Evaluate	establish value, amount, importance, or effectiveness assess • figure out • gauge
8	Explain	provide reasons for what happened or one's actions clarify • demonstrate • discuss
9	Imagine	create a picture in one's mind; speculate or predict anticipate • hypothesize • predict
10	Integrate	make whole by combining the different parts into one combine • incorporate • synthesize
11	Interpret	draw from a text or data set some meaning or significance deduce • infer • translate
12	Organize	arrange or put in order arrange • classify • form
13	Summarize	retell the essential details of what happened outline • paraphrase • report
14	Support	offer evidence or data to illustrate your point cite • justify • maintain
15	Transform	change in form, function, or nature to reveal or emphasize alter • change • convert