

**Academic Vocabulary— ELA, 5-8** (adapted from *Building Academic Vocabulary* by Robert Marzano.)

<p>Provide a student-friendly <i>description, explanation, or example of the term.</i> ACTIVE vs. PASSIVE VOICE</p>	<p>Students <i>restate in their own words</i> in writing.</p>	<p>Students construct a <i>picture, symbol, or graphic representation</i> of the term.</p>	<p>Students <i>discuss</i> terms with one another—comparing pictures, descriptions and make additions <b>revisions to notebook entries.</b></p>
<p><b>ACTIVE VOICE</b> In a sentence using <b>active voice</b>, the <i>subject of the sentence performs the action</i> expressed in the verb. Active voice is used for most non-scientific writing. Using active voice for the majority of your sentences makes your meaning clear for readers, and keeps the sentences from becoming too complicated or wordy. Even in scientific writing, too much use of passive voice can cloud the meaning of your sentences. Examples: (active voice) -<i>The dog bit the boy.</i> -<i>Scientists conducted experiments to test their hypothesis.</i></p>	<p>The subject <b>performs the action</b> expressed by verb.</p>	<p>Over one-third of the <b>applicants</b> to the school <b>failed</b> the entrance exam.</p>	<p>Students discuss, analyze, compare... add, revise notebook entries as necessary.</p>
<p><b>PASSIVE VOICE</b> In a sentence using <b>passive voice</b>, the <i>subject is acted upon</i>. He or she receives the action expressed by the verb. The</p>	<p>Subject <b>receives the action</b> expressed by verb. Verb phrase always includes a form of BE—<i>am, is, are, was, were, been.</i></p>	<p>The <i>entrance exam</i> <b>was failed by</b> over one-third of <b>the applicants</b> to the school.</p>	<p>Students discuss, analyze, compare... add, revise notebook entries as necessary.</p>

<p>agent performing the action may appear in a "by the..." phrase or it may be omitted. Using passive voice often creates awkward sentences, so beware! Also, overuse of passive voice throughout an essay can cause your prose to seem flat and uninteresting. (Passive voice is more readily accepted in scientific writing because it allows one to write without using personal pronouns or specific names.) You can recognize passive-voice expressions because the verb phrase will always include a form of be, such as <b>am, is, was, were, are, or been</b>. The presence of a be-verb, however, does not <i>necessarily</i> mean that the sentence is in passive voice. Examples: (passive voice)  <i>-The boy was bitten by the dog.</i>  <i>-Experiments were conducted by the scientists to test their hypothesis.</i></p>			
<p>Engage students periodically in <i>games and activities</i> that help them add to their knowledge of the terms. Many examples can be found in chapter 4 of <i>Building Academic Vocabulary</i> by Robert Marzano.</p>			