

# The A-LIST: Essential Academic Words

|    |                  |  |
|----|------------------|--|
| 1  | Analyze          | break something down methodically into its parts<br><b>break down • deconstruct • examine</b>  |
| 2  | Argue            | provide reasons or evidence to support or oppose<br><b>claim • persuade • propose</b>  |
| 3  | Compare/Contrast | identify similarities or differences between items<br><b>delineate • differentiate • distinguish</b>   |
| 4  | Describe         | report what one observes or does<br><b>illustrate • report • represent</b>   |
| 5  | Determine        | make a decision or arrive at a conclusion after considering all possible options, perspectives, or results<br><b>establish • identify • define</b> |
| 6  | Develop          | improve the quality or substance of<br><b>formulate • generate • elaborate</b>   |
| 7  | Evaluate         | establish value, amount, importance, or effectiveness<br><b>assess • figure out • gauge</b>  |
| 8  | Explain          | provide reasons for what happened or one's actions<br><b>clarify • demonstrate • discuss</b>   |
| 9  | Imagine          | create a picture in one's mind; speculate or predict<br><b>anticipate • hypothesize • predict</b>  |
| 10 | Integrate        | make whole by combining the different parts into one<br><b>combine • incorporate • synthesize</b>  |
| 11 | Interpret        | draw from a text or data set some meaning or significance<br><b>deduce • infer • translate</b>   |
| 12 | Organize         | arrange or put in order<br><b>arrange • classify • form</b>  |
| 13 | Summarize        | retell the essential details of what happened<br><b>outline • paraphrase • report</b>  |
| 14 | Support          | offer evidence or data to illustrate your point<br><b>cite • justify • maintain</b>  |
| 15 | Transform        | change in form, function, or nature to reveal or emphasize<br><b>alter • change • convert</b>  |