THE A-LIST: Essential Academic Words

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1	**Analyze** break down • deconstruct • examine	break something down methodically into its parts to understand how it is made, what it is, how it works; look at something critically in order to grasp its essence
2	**Argue** claim • persuade • propose	provide reasons or evidence in order to support or oppose something; persuade another by reason or evidence; contend or maintain that something is true
3	**Compare/Contrast** delineate • differentiate • distinguish	identify similarities or differences between two or more items in order to understand how they are alike, equal, or analogous to each other
4	**Describe** illustrate • report • represent	report what one observes or does in order to capture and convey to others a process, impression, or a sequence of events in a narrative
5	**Determine** establish • identify • resolve	consider all possible options, perspectives, results, or answers in order to arrive at a decision; provide guidance by establishing what is most important or relevant
6	**Develop** formulate • generate • elaborate	improve the quality or substance of; extend or elaborate upon an idea in order to give it greater form; add more complexity or strength to an idea, position, or process
7	**Evaluate** assess • figure out • gauge	determine the value, amount, importance, or effectiveness of something in order to understand if it matters or means something
8	**Explain** clarify • demonstrate • discuss	provide reasons for what happened or for one's actions in order to clarify, justify, or define those events, actions, causes or effects
9	**Imagine** anticipate • hypothesize • predict	form a picture of in one's mind; speculate or predict what might happen under certain conditions; envision a range of possible outcomes, obstacles, or opportunities
10	**Integrate** combine • incorporate • synthesize	make whole by combining the different parts into one; join or make something part of a larger unit; synthesize many disparate parts into one form
11	**Interpret** conclude • infer • translate	draw from a text, data set, information or artwork some meaning or significance; make inferences or draw conclusions about what an act, text, or event means
12	**Organize** arrange • classify • form	arrange or put in order according to some guiding principle; impose coherence, order, structure, or function according to type, traits, or other quality
13	**Summarize** outline • paraphrase • report	retell the essential details of what happened, what someone did or said, in order to better understand and remember it; outline key details in accessible language
14	**Support** cite • justify • maintain	offer evidence, examples, details, or data in order to illustrate or bolster your claim or conclusion; cite those sources of information that justify your position
15	**Transform** alter • change • convert	change in form, function, or nature in order to reveal or emphasize something; convert data from one form into another; alter something through a process

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