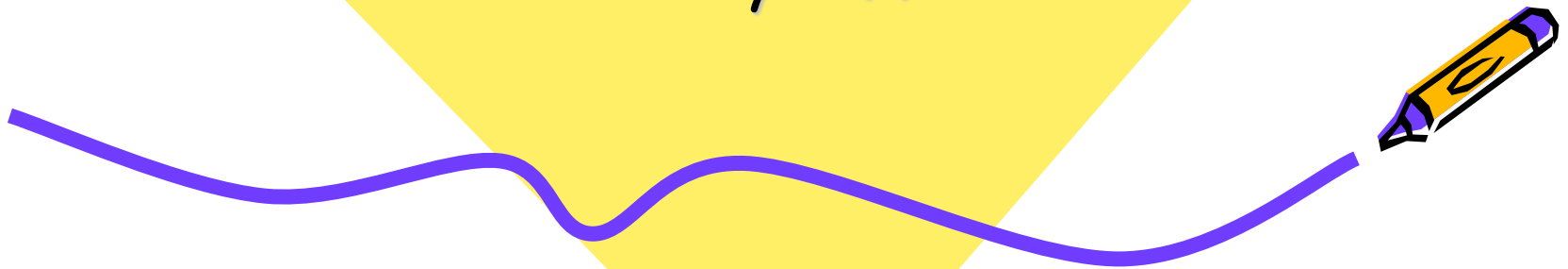




*Using Larry Bell's 12 Powerful Words  
to Motivate and Lead Students to  
Understand Test Taking Terms*

Kristen Pennycuff Trent

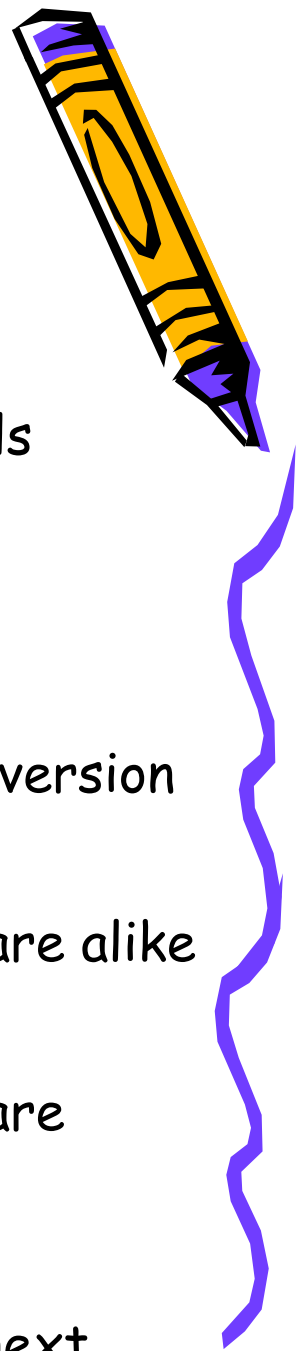


# Thinking About Verbs

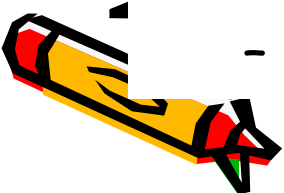
- Think about verbs that you have seen on TCAP or other tests
  - Can you brainstorm 12 powerful verbs that you have seen in test questions?



# Larry Bell's 12 Powerful Words



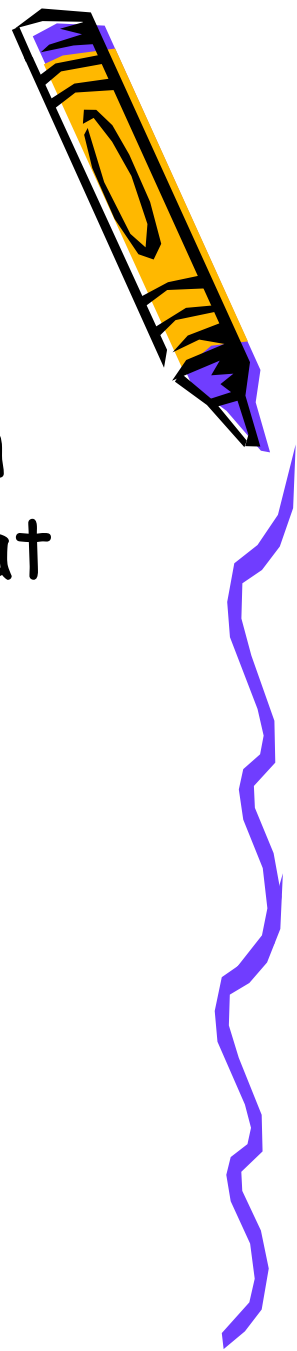
- Trace
  - List in steps
- Analyze
  - Break apart
- Infer
  - Read between the lines
- Evaluate
  - Judge
- Formulate
  - Create
- Describe
  - Tell all about it
- Support
  - Back up with details
- Explain
  - Tell how
- Summarize
  - Give me the short version
- Compare
  - All the ways they are alike
- Contrast
  - All the ways they are different
- Predict
  - What will happen next



# Why is this important?

- It's hard to answer the question in any subject if you do not know what the question means or is asking.
  - Adults have trouble
  - Put yourself in students place
  - Double and triple threat
  - The goal

Universal words



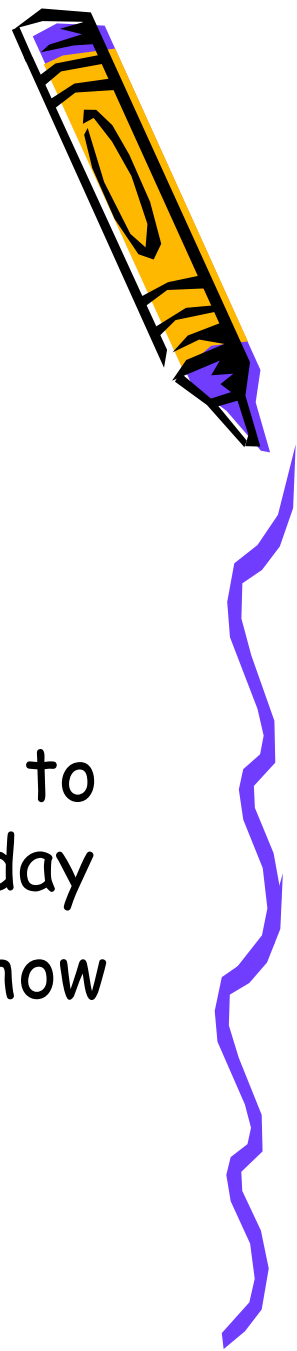
# What Can You Do?



- Use them daily
  - Otherwise some students rarely hear them
  - Ask students to explain what you mean when you use one of the 12 powerful words
  - Rephrase what students say using a power verb
  - Use them in normal, everyday conversation



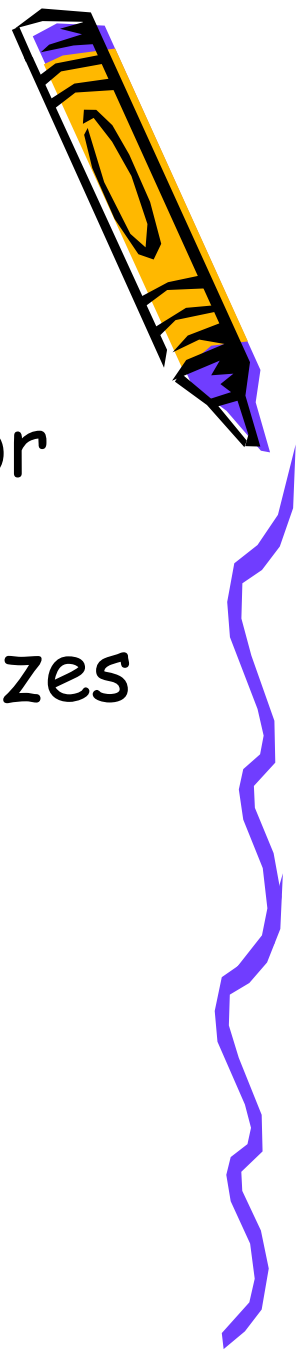
# What Can You Do?



- Have a Word of the Day
  - Select a word to focus on each day
  - Make sure it appears over and over
  - Ask students to constantly find ways to say and write the word all period or day
  - Have students start class by telling how the word is a part of their everyday lives



# What Can You Do?



- Display the words on posters you or students create
- Put the 12 Powerful Words on quizzes and tests
  - Use a student-friendly definition or synonym in parenthesis



# What Can You Do?



- Invite students to create a rap using the 12 Powerful Words and motions

- Elementary:

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PE59sLjNVxs&feature=related>

- Middle:

- <http://www.schooltube.com/video/7b917d095d843e7c9224/12-Power-Words>

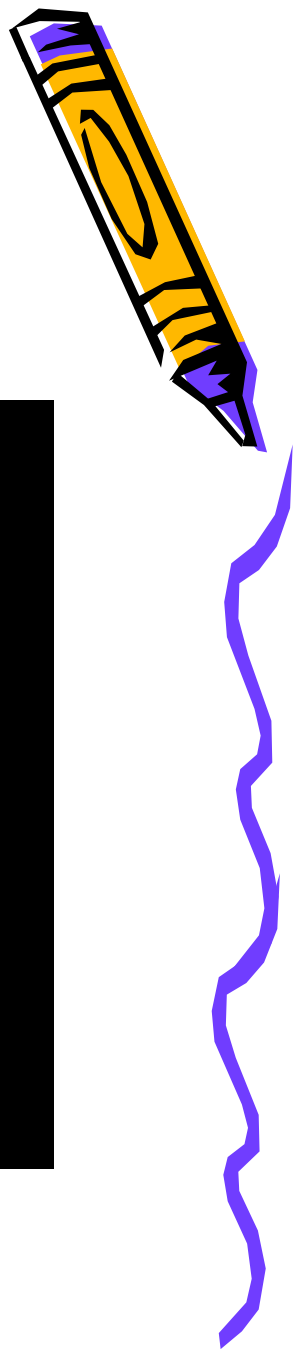
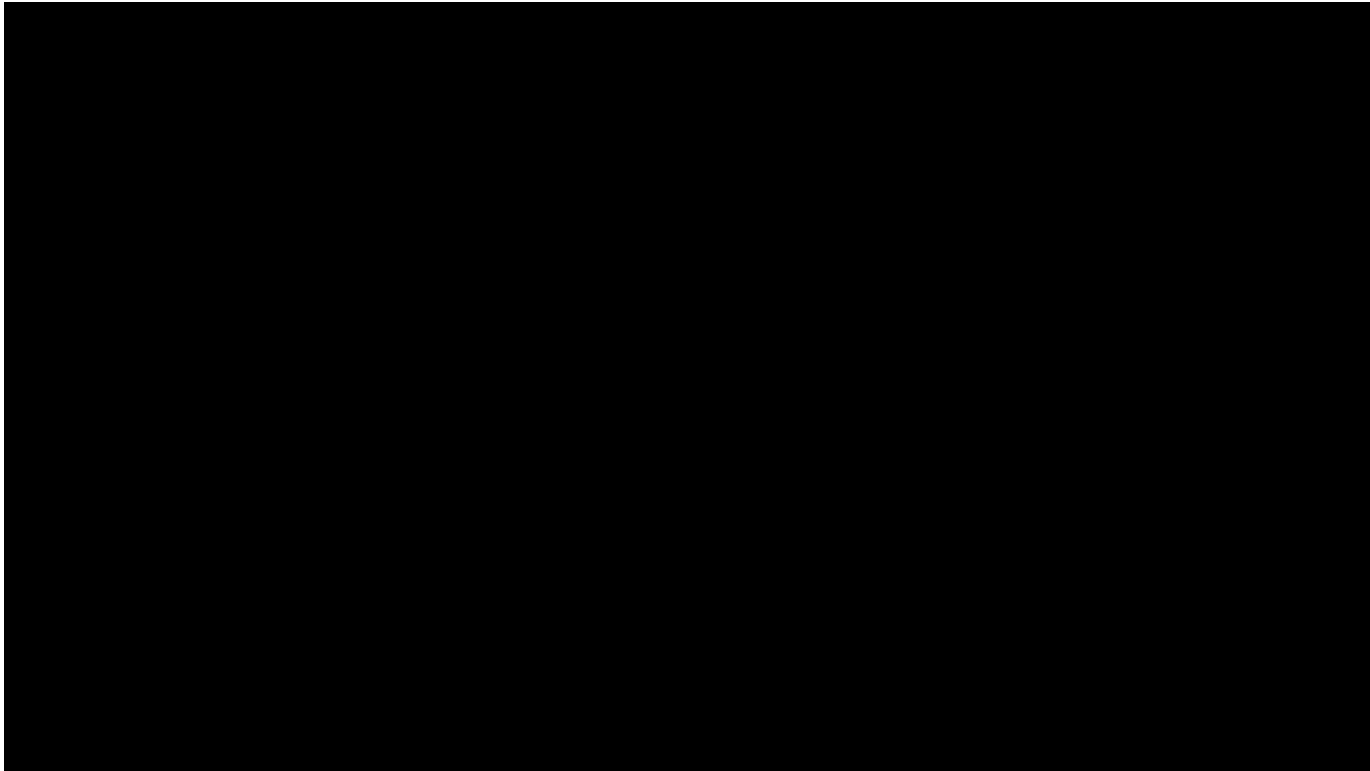
- High School:

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DdsaLduyChw&feature=related>

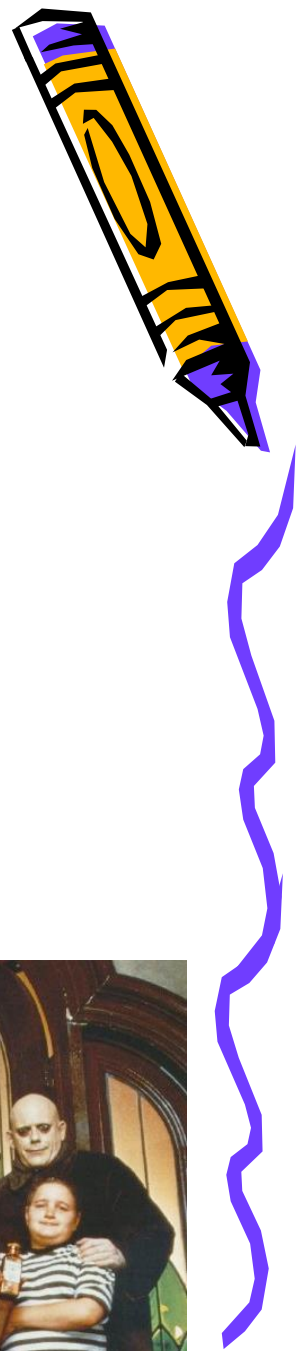




# Elementary Chant



# 12 Words "Adams Family"

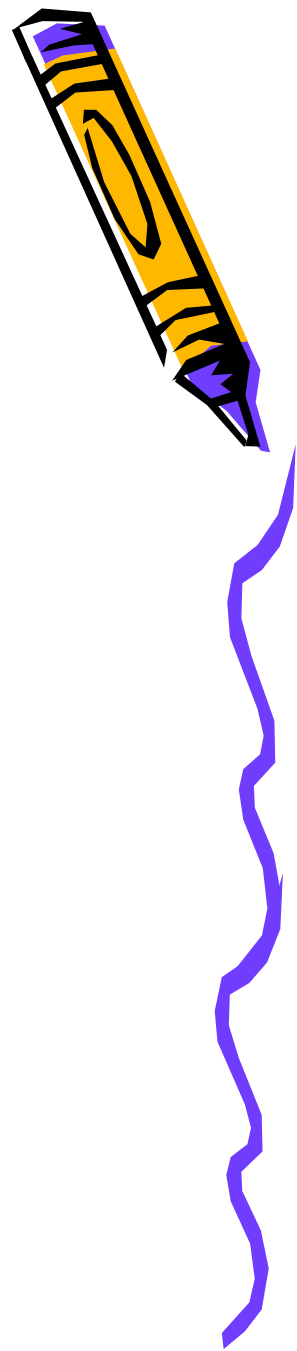


- We trace and analyze  
Infer and evaluate,  
We formulate, describe  
We use the Twelve Words
- Twelve Words (snap, snap)  
Twelve Words (snap, snap)  
Twelve Words, Twelve Words  
Twelve Words (snap, snap)
- Support it and explain it  
Compare it and contrast it  
Summarize and predict it  
We use the Twelve Words



# What Can You Do?

- Start a Powerful Words Wall of Fame
  - Develop categories such as best rap, best country song, best poetry, best poster, etc... and tape writing and pictures of students



# What Can You Do?



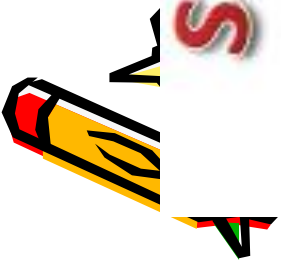
- Invite students to write using all 12 Powerful Words on each page
  - A nonfiction story about their own lives
  - A fictitious story about their lives in the future
  - A summary of the day's activities
  - Poetry
- Connects school and home
- Gets students emotionally involved as well as facilitates higher order thinking



# SWAT

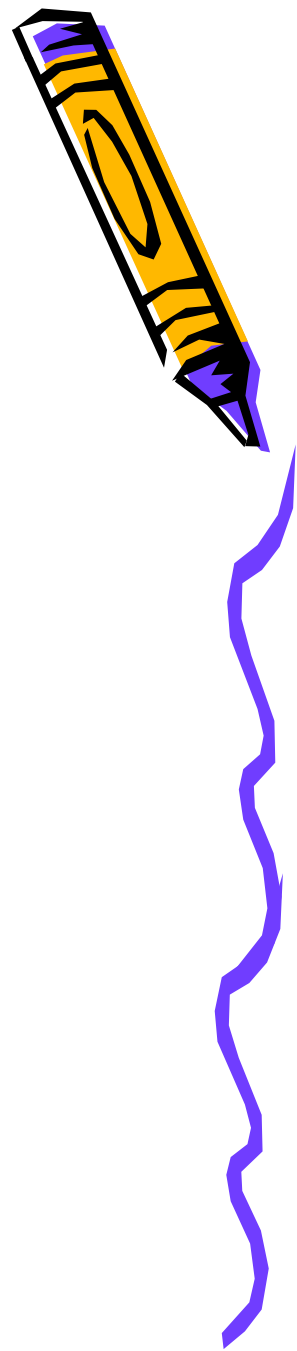


compare evaluate formulate  
describe predict  
TRACE  
infer explain support  
analyze contrast

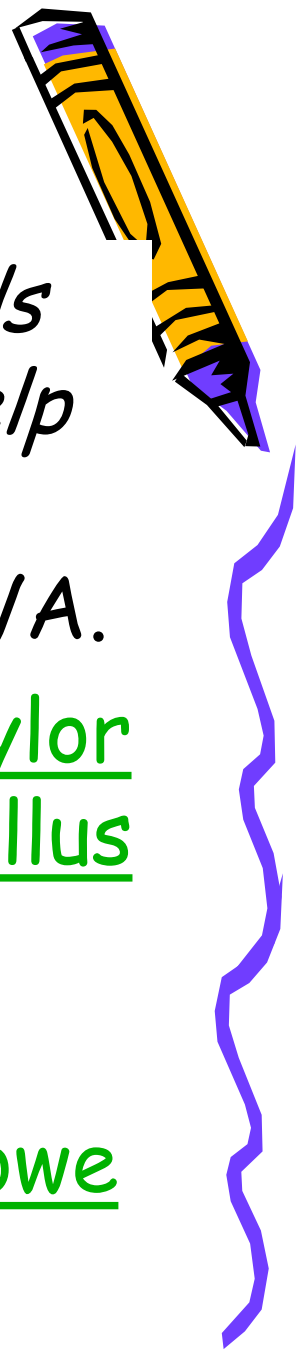


# How Will You Use the 12 Powerful Words?

- Write on your index cards, then share with an elbow partner.



# Resources



- Bell, L. (2005). *12 Powerful Words that Increase Test Scores and Help Close the Achievement Gap*. Multicultural America: Manassas, VA.
- <http://www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us/TaylorES/documents/12PowerfulWordsIllustrated.pdf>
- [http://jc-schools.net/12powerfulwords/12powerfulwords.ppt#256,1,12 Powerful Words](http://jc-schools.net/12powerfulwords/12powerfulwords.ppt#256,1,12%20Powerful%20Words)

