The information busy secondary teachers need to work effectively with English learners and struggling readers.

Teaching secondary students in the content areas is hard enough under the best of circumstances. When students are not well prepared academically and also lack academic literacy skills, the challenge can seem overwhelming. Fortunately, the Freemans help secondary content-area teachers provide these students with the academic support they very desperately need.

—Robert J. Marzano
Coauthor of Building Academic Vocabulary

Many middle school and secondary students are recent immigrants or long-term English language learners who struggle with the academic language of content-area textbooks and writing assignments. Native speakers who are struggling readers also find content-area classes a challenge. Yet secondary teachers have little time to teach academic reading and writing because of content requirements in social studies, science, math, or language arts classes. Academic Language for English Language Learners and Struggling Readers gives these busy teachers the information and strategies they need to help all their students develop academic language.

Yvonne and David Freeman (authors of Essential Linguistics) discuss differences among the types of students who struggle with academic language, and they illustrate each type with a detailed example of one student. Then they examine academic language at different levels: the text, the paragraph, the sentence, and the word. For each level, they provide examples and specific strategies for teaching academic language at each level in the different content areas. They also suggest ways to make content-area textbooks more accessible.

The Freemans also explain how to motivate and engage students and how to teach both academic language and subject-matter content. They discuss the importance of developing language and content objectives, and they provide specific examples of objectives in different content areas. Academic Language for English Language Learners and Struggling Readers provides the specific information teachers need to ensure their students’ academic success.

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