

Word Choice Checklist

The five words or phrases that you choose for your dictionary entries should be used in a unique way in the pop culture text. Evaluate the words you brainstormed with the questions below. If you can answer “Yes” to every question, the word or phrase is a good choice for your project.

Is the word or phrase from a pop culture text?

The word or phrase should come from a text that is watched, listened to, or read by mainstream audiences. It should be a text that is popular and generally familiar with the members of society or a community. The text might be a television show, movie, online or console game, or an Internet site.

Is the word specific to the pop culture text?

The word or phrase should be used in a unique way in the text. It wouldn't be used the same way in another pop culture text. For instance, the characters in the television show *How I Met Your Mother* use the word *doppelganger*, for instance, but the definition of the word is the same as normal use of the word. A word from the show like *lawyered* or a phrase like *suit up* is a better choice.

Do you use the word or phrase in normal conversation?

You should be able to provide examples of ways that you use the word or phrase when talking to others. If you only use the word or phrase when you tell someone what happened in the text, it's not a good choice. For example, you probably wouldn't use the name of a complicated spell from a Harry Potter book in daily conversation, but you might say “Lumos” when you turn on your flashlight and “Nox” when you turn it back off.