## ESSENTIAL ELEMENT, LINKAGE LEVELS, AND MINI-MAP
### ELA: GRADE 8
### ELA.EE.W.8.2.d

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**Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic**

**EMERGENT WRITING (EW.8)**

**Initial Precursor**
- When supplied with a member of a category, can determine if the member belongs in the category

**Distal Precursor**
- Using their categorical knowledge, can make generalizations about the category to novel instances of that category

**CONVENTIONAL WRITING (CW.8)**

**Proximal Precursor**
- Student is able to select domain-specific words to use for writing about a topic

**Target**
- Can include domain-specific vocabulary when writing an informative text

**Successor**
- Can use domain-specific vocabulary to strengthen claims in informative writing (student is both able to write claims at this stage and can appropriately make use of domain specific vocabulary to enhance claims)

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**How is the Initial Precursor related to the Target?**

**Initial Precursor:** Selecting domain-specific words when writing about a selected topic requires students to understand how words relate to specific domains. Students can work toward this understanding by applying knowledge of words from familiar categories. In the context of writing, students can select a topic for writing. The teacher can then list words, and students indicate if they are or are not members of a category related to the topic.

**Distal Precursor:** Selecting domain-specific words when writing about a selected topic requires students to understand how words relate to specific domains. Students can work toward this understanding by applying knowledge of words from familiar categories. In the context of writing, students can select a topic for writing and then work to generate words in categories related to the topic.

This Essential Element is tested in an ELA writing testlet. Writing testlets are assessed at two levels: Emergent Writing and Conventional Writing. The Initial and Distal Precursor nodes are assessed in the emergent writing testlet in Grade 8 with four other Essential Elements: ELA.EE.W.8.2.a, ELA.EE.W.8.2.b, ELA.EE.W.8.2.c, and ELA.EE.W.8.2.f. The Proximal Precursor, Target, and Successor nodes are assessed in the conventional writing testlet in Grade 8 with four other Essential Elements: ELA.EE.W.8.2.a, ELA.EE.W.8.2.b, ELA.EE.W.8.2.c, and ELA.EE.W.8.2.f.

A diagram showing the relationship of nodes in the mini-map appears below.

*Key to map codes in upper right corner of node boxes:*

- IP Initial Precursor
- SP Supporting
- DP Distal Precursor
- S Successor
- PP Proximal Precursor
- UN Untested
- T Target
ELA.EE.W.8.2.d - Use domain specific vocabulary related to the topic.