

# Vocabulary in Context

## VOCABULARY PRACTICE

Choose the word from the list that best completes each sentence.

1. Until we get the facts from the proper sources, everything is \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Concrete actions speak louder than empty \_\_\_\_\_.
3. As a \_\_\_\_\_ of conservation, she signed a petition for the preservation of wetlands.
4. I do not want to \_\_\_\_\_ your work, so please let me know if I'm a distraction.

### WORD LIST

impede  
proponent  
rhetoric  
speculative

## VOCABULARY IN WRITING

Using two or more vocabulary words, write about the importance of science in your life. Here is an example of how you might begin.

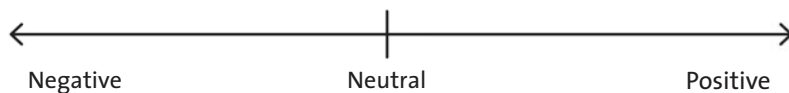
### EXAMPLE SENTENCE

*I am a **proponent** of increased funding for science education because I believe that people need to make informed decisions about scientific issues, such as the use of animals in research.*

## VOCABULARY STRATEGY: CONNOTATION

A word's **connotation** is the overtone of meaning that it has beyond its basic meaning. Some connotations may be positive or negative. For example, although the nouns *rhetoric* and *discourse* can both be used to refer to written or oral expression in language, *rhetoric* can have a negative connotation because it can suggest language that is empty or insincere. When you choose words in writing, be sure to consider whether their connotations fit the context.

**PRACTICE** Place the words in each group on a continuum like the one shown, to identify whether they have positive, negative, or neutral connotations. Then compare your answers with those of a classmate.



1. sentimental, overemotional, romantic
2. childlike, youthful, immature
3. thrifty, economical, stingy
4. strange, quaint, peculiar



SUNSHINE STATE STANDARD  
Reading Process  
Benchmark LA.910.1.6.6 Distinguish  
denotative and connotative  
meanings of words.



### VOCABULARY PRACTICE

For more practice, go to the **Vocabulary Center** at [ClassZone.com](http://ClassZone.com).