Word Chain

In this strategy students connect and organize 5-9 new vocabulary words after the teacher has introduced the words. In most content areas, new vocabulary words are related to other new words or previously learned words. A word chain provides a structure which allows students to explore relationships among the words, understand how they can be used, and remember their meanings. This requires higher-level thinking, so teachers need to model this strategy with the whole class before asking them to do it independently.

Procedures:

1. Select 5-9 new vocabulary words that are related to the same concept.
2. Model how to develop a word chain based on their relationships and connections. (words can be associated to each other in several ways; therefore, more than one word chain can often be created using the same words).
3. In pairs, students are given a set of words. They then develop a word chain to demonstrate the relationship among the words.
4. In pairs, they share their word chains with the class, describing the connections.
5. Each student writes a short paragraph using the new words in a way that demonstrates their connection.

Example using 9 words (you may modify the diagram as needed):

![Word Chain Diagram]

- Valor
- Knights
- Courage
- Bravery
- Compassion
- Chivalry
- Medieval
- Gallant
- Honor