Using Precise Language

Academic Writing

A general word is a word that you use in everyday language. A precise word is a higher level word that has a meaning similar—but more specific than—the general word. Precise words are used in academic writing.

DIRECTIONS: Match the general words below to their more precise synonyms. Then use the precise words to fill in the blanks in the sentences below.

1. don’t have (something)  
2. usually do (something)  
3. not finish or do (something)  
4. possible  
5. enough  
6. really important  
7. teen/teenager  
8. amount

9. _______________________________ tend to procrastinate.

10. We have not seen ______________________________ evidence to convince us.

11. These __________________________ subjects must be covered by twelfth grade.

12. Some students __________________________ the necessary ambition to do well.

13. The students with the most ______________________________ were invited to take college classes over the summer.

14. The __________________________ of students who don’t finish high school is alarming.