**ACTIVITY 1- PART I**

**PURPOSE:** To introduce the vocabulary strategy of using the context of a sentence to figure out unknown words. Through this activity students will learn the four major types of context clues.

**DIRECTIONS:**

1. Explain the four different types of context clues through the sample sentences below.
2. Introduce the four sentences using the word **sagacious**. Let students decide which type of context clue is used in each sentence. Use the clues to figure out the meaning of the word.

**Clue 1- SYNONYMS**

1. That reading teacher was **cantankerous**, she was disagreeable and bad tempered most of the time.

2. Kareem faced a **daunting** task when he immigrated to the United States. It was challenging to learn a new language and adapt to a drastically different culture.

**Clue 2- ANTONYMS (Opposites)**

1. Although your individual grades in college are important, it is your **cumulative** G.P.A. that employers will evaluate when you apply for a job.

2. The Olympic athlete had been training for months and was quite **robust**. This was a real change from his tired and weak state of health the previous year when he had been seriously ill.

**Clue 3-EXAMPLES**

1. She is always doing **humane** things for the community. She takes care of lost dogs, she feeds the homeless and she donates her old clothes to the poor.

2. Robert was **fatigued** from work: his feet hurt from standing all day, and his back ached from lifting heavy cartons.

**Clue 4-GENERAL SENSE /EXPLANATION**

1. The struggling student was **ecstatic** when he won the lottery.

2. After eating three helpings of turkey and dressing, four helpings of sweet potatoes and three pieces of pie, Andy’s hunger was **satiated**.
Four Types of Context Clues

- definitions or synonyms
- antonyms (opposites)
- examples
- general sense of sentence

Decide which type of context clue is being used in each sentence.

Then tell what you think sagacious means.

1. The CSI detective was **sagacious**, he always discovered the hidden evidence, he quickly figured out who committed the crime and he caught even the smartest criminals.

2. While my sister was rather foolish and slow to catch on to things, my brother was **sagacious** so you could never trick him.

3. My best friend is a **sagacious** stock broker. He is clever and shrewd so he makes a good profit.

4. A woman is the president of Raytheon today. She was hired to run the company because of her **sagacious** nature.
ACTIVITY 1-Part 2

DIRECTIONS:

• Let students work in pairs or independently to decide the meaning of each word in the sentences 1-14. They must also decide the type of context clue being used.

• When everyone is done, go over the sentences and have students explain the correct meaning of the words and have them tell which type of context clue is used.

• Explain to the students that in a later activity (Activity 3-4) they will write their own sentences and paragraphs to help others figure out challenging words.

Sample Sentences

1. Because the secret service agents were involved in a clandestine activity, they had to keep it hidden from the public.

   Type of clue_______________________________meaning_________________________________

2. Things like students’ grades and temperatures seem to fluctuate regularly.

   Type of clue_______________________________meaning_________________________________

3. Since I came to class unprepared, I had to improvise when the teacher asked me to give my presentation.

   Type of clue_______________________________meaning_________________________________

4. The witness claimed, “I am willing to affirm that I was present at the scene of the crime, but I strongly deny that I had any role in that Circle K robbery.”

   Type of clue_______________________________meaning_________________________________

5. Some people feel that Barak Obama won the election because of his charisma. He had a very likable, pleasant personality that seems to draw people toward him.

   Type of clue_______________________________meaning_________________________________
6. Some people never survive the rigor of boot-camp in the army. The running, climbing, lifting weights and other strenuous activities are just too much for them and they quit.

   Type of clue_______________________________meaning______________________________

7. In the interim between the fall and spring semesters, I worked lots of overtime to make some extra money.

   Type of clue_______________________________meaning______________________________

8. I turned off my television when I saw a news story about a gruesome murder. I don’t want to read about gory, frightening details of crimes.

   Type of clue_______________________________meaning______________________________

9. Sleeplessness is much more prevalent among the geriatric population than it is with younger people.

   Type of clue_______________________________meaning______________________________

10. Because I was already late for work, I did a cursory job of cleaning my house.

    Type of clue_______________________________meaning______________________________

11. Punitive measures such as grounding your kids or taking away their allowance can sometimes encourage better behavior.

    Type of clue_______________________________meaning______________________________

12. While some people are passionate about elections and political matters, others are quite ambivalent about them.

    Type of clue_______________________________meaning______________________________

13. In historical novels, the background of the story is based on factual events but the characters and the story are fictitious.

    Type of clue_______________________________meaning______________________________

14. Many young people are interested in lucrative careers like law, medicine and professional sports.
Type of clue_________________________________meaning_________________________________