Understanding Academic Language

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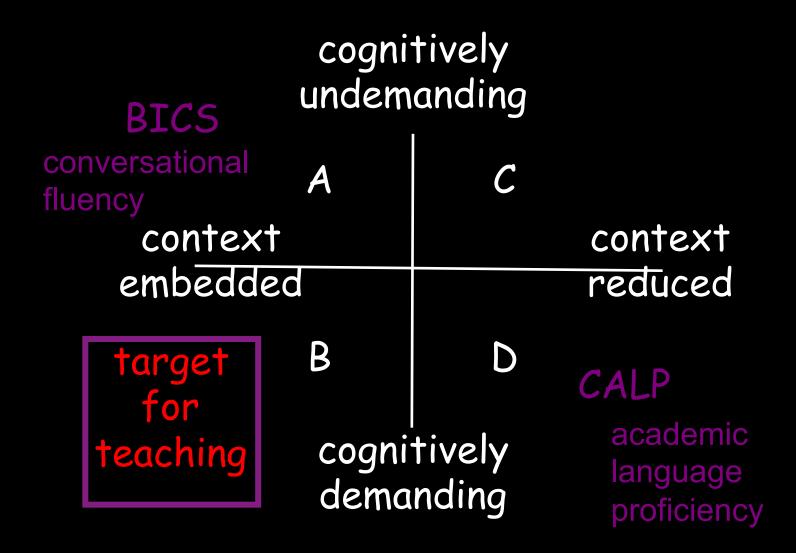
What is Academic Language?

- Academic language is the register of language used in schools
- ELLs need to learn the academic register to read, write, and discuss academic subjects

Understanding Academic Language

 Cummins developed a distinction between conversational and academic language to help account for the fact that some students who seem to speak and understand English do poorly on school tasks

Cummins quadrants



Activities for Each Quadrant

BICS

discuss the weather interview a classmate and write a short biography

discuss an upcoming sports event send an e-mail

teach a science lesson about solar eclipses using visuals role play a historical event

read a social studies text take a standardized test

CALP

Continuum of Language

text a friend

casual academic conversation discussion

academic lecture

newspaper article academic journal

article

more spoken-like

more written-like

conversational fluency

academic language proficiency