

Name _____

Word Power Ladder Answer Key

Note: Some ladders can be defended in more than one way. These are strong, grade-appropriate rankings.

- Set One: disagree, challenge, dispute, oppose, reject
- Set Two: pleased, content, delighted, thrilled, ecstatic
- Set Three: uneasy, nervous, frightened, terrified, panicked
- Set Four: try, attempt, strive, labor, exhaust
- Set Five: annoyed, irritated, frustrated, furious, enraged

Teacher's Guide

- **Quick launch:** Model one ladder aloud and emphasize that intensity can depend on **emotional force**, **certainty level**, or **degree of change**.
- **Engagement:**
 - Put students in pairs and assign each pair one set to defend. Require them to cite **connotation** and not just dictionary meaning.
 - Host a brief "swap and challenge" where groups trade ladders and attempt to refute one rung with a better justification.
- **Extension ideas:**
 - Have students write a short paragraph using three words from one ladder in ascending order to show a clear escalation.
 - Ask students to replace vague words in a sample argument (good, bad, big, nice) with ladder words to make the writing more **precise** and **powerful**.