Displaying high frequency vocabulary words in the classroom is one way of promoting vocabulary growth. Using high frequency words that are going to be used in current units of study is a strategy that fosters daily word practice and review.

1. Select high-frequency words that are used in the context in which you expect the students to know them.
2. Use the same display area throughout the semester for your word wall. Students, once used to the concept, will look for the wall. Consistency is important when presenting organizational ideas to a class. Refer to the display area as the ‘word wall’ as some students will remember this from their elementary experience. Some teachers have multiple kinds of word walls up at the same time. Current unit of study words, synonyms, test talk words, etc...
3. Do not overcrowd the word wall. You may want to move “used” words to another location in the room as space for new words is needed. Keeping up old word wall words allows students to refer to them as they read or write during the year.
4. Creatively display and organize words. High school students like visual stimuli as much as their elementary counterparts. Try creating a smaller word wall using the vocabulary poster activity. If a unit of study or book study takes longer than one week, then have students make vocabulary posters (3-5 each week) for the most challenging words on the wall.
5. Add words in manageable amounts (usually between 5 to 7 new words at a time...per week).
6. Make word wall activities a regular and predictable part of the daily classroom routine. Word wall activities make for natural class openers or closers. The word wall activity should be only about 5 minutes in length unless incorporated with a larger activity. Word wall activities should be interactive and not worksheet work. Take time to watch Mrs. Thomas’ Daily Word Review – Connecting Text to Self and also her video entitled “Vocabulary Games – Grab a Word”. Both of these are excellent examples of daily word review games using a word wall.