# Integrating Literacy Strategies Across the Curriculum

"Use writing and critical reading to help students gain some control of the process of discovery, and, even more important, to relate the process of writing to the process of learning a given subject matter" – Janet Enig, "Writing as a Mode of Learning"

What is your definition of literacy??
How about content area literacy?
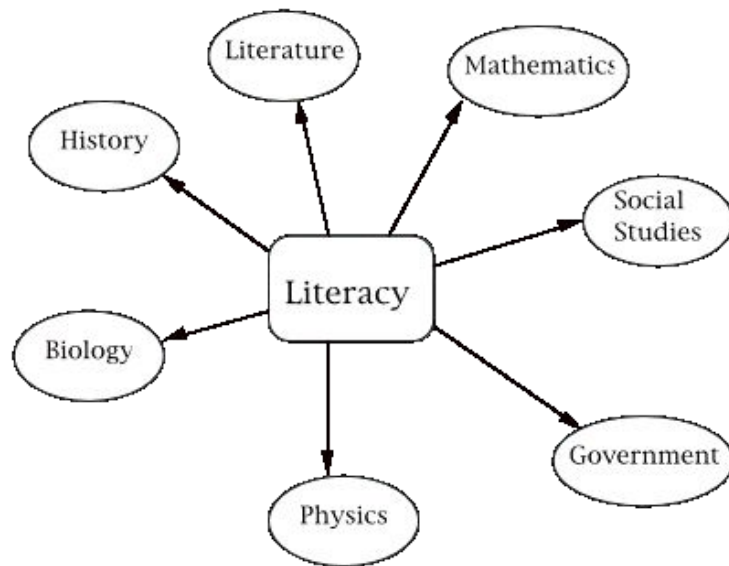
Why We Need an Across-the-Curriculum Emphasis on Literacy

Not to teach writing and reading but to teach our students how to learn

Literacy is a Powerful Tool

- Interpret data
- Synthesize information from multiple sources
- Arrive at a hypothesis
- Infer from texts to arrive at an analysis
- Answer a text-based question

Writing and reading are processes of discovery! They force students to go beyond mere memorization and apply what they've learned.

Session Goals

- Review literacy standards across disciplines.
- Explore best practice in achieving literacy across the curriculum.
- Model strategies that demonstrate how reading and writing promote literacy.
- Reflect on and discuss how to incorporate literacy into your daily plans.

Research Shows...

If teachers integrate literacy into their content area a couple of times a week, students increase reading levels and significantly improve performance on content area standardized testing.

Today's jobs demand greater literacy skills.

Reading & Writing Standards for Literacy Across Disciplines (Science, History, Technology)

Just a few...

- Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of science and technical texts.
- Determine the central ideas or conclusions of a text; trace the text's explanation or depiction of a complex process.
- Read and comprehend science, technical, & historical texts.
- Analyze the structure of the relationships between concepts in a text (force, friction, reaction force, etc.).

Our students need support!

They need:

● access to a wide variety of reading material instruction that builds skills and the desire to read complex materials

● expert teachers who model and provide explicit instruction across the curriculum

Our students need support!

They should:

- write weekly in ALL classes
- write research paper in ALL classes
- be asked to use reading and writing strategies to enhance their learning
- read 25 books across the curriculum over the course of the year

ENGLISH

Written Product	Literary Analysis	Rhetorical Analysis	Research Paper (Report)	Argument	Definition Essay	Evaluation
Rhetorical Purpose	Respond critically to cultural works	Examine in detail the way text works	Provide readers with reliable information	Ask readers to consider debatable ideas	Categorize a particular thing, person, event or phenomenon	Make a claim about the merit of something
Variations	• Literary Interpretation • Close Reading • Cultural Analysis	• Ad Analysis • Argument Analysis • Cultural Analysis • Analysis of a visual text	• News Report • Investigative Report • Academic Report • Flowchart • Infographic	• Argument to advance a thesis • Exploratory Argument • Refutation Argument • Visual Argument	• Simple Categorical Arguments • Definitional Arguments	• Product Review • Arts Review • Social Satire • Visual Comparison
Major Traits	• Thesis-driven (thesis first format) • Claims supported with quotations from text(s) • Proper citation • Data-driven	• Thesis-driven (thesis first format) • Claims supported with quotations from text(s) • Proper citation • Data driven	• Objective • Uses reliable sources with supported evidence and/or claims and proper citations • Presents information clearly • Requires synthesis • Thesis-driven	• Thesis-driven • Supporting evidence • Refutation • Often requires synthesis	• Thesis-driven • Establishes clear criteria • Defends criteria matching	• Thesis-driven (makes judgment) • Establishes criteria • Offers convincing evidence
Example	• Analysis	• Analysis	• Synthesis	• Any template	• Definition	• Evaluation

HISTORY

Written Product	Response Paper	Historiographical Essay	Research Paper (Report)	Argument	Critiques of Article
Rhetorical Purpose	Reflect on a text and discuss/evaluate it	Analyze how historians have interpreted a particular event	Provide readers with reliable information	Ask readers to consider debatable ideas	Demonstrate comprehension and the ability to synthesize and critically evaluate information
Variations	Book Review		Academic Report	Argument to advance a thesis	
Major Traits	• Thesis-driven (usually in response to a specific question) • Offers supporting evidence	• Thesis-driven • Uses reliable sources • Presents information clearly	• Objective • Uses reliable sources with supported evidence and/or claims and proper citations • Presents information clearly • Critically evaluates primary and secondary sources	• Thesis-driven • Supporting evidence • Refutation •	• Addresses strengths and weaknesses of article with particular attention to research design, analysis, conclusions, and citation usage

LABORATORY SCIENCES (CHEMISTRY, BIOLOGY, ETC)

| Written Product	Lab Report	Poster Presentation	Research Paper (Report)	Argument
Rhetorical Purpose	Record a scientific experiment	Stand as a source of information and generate conversation	Provide readers with reliable information	Asks readers to consider debatable ideas
Variations	Scientific Research Report		• Academic Report • Scientific Article	• Argument to advance a thesis • Scientific Article
Major Traits	• Generally follow IMRaD format: Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion • May not contain a traditional thesis (though still a clear sense of purpose)	• Focused on one message • Includes charts, figures, and graphics and uses text sparingly • Clear sequencing	• Objective • Uses reliable sources with supported evidence and/or claims and proper citations • Presents information clearly	• Thesis-driven • Supporting evidence • Refutation

BUSINESS

Written Product	Press Release	Cover Letter and Resume	Memo	Proposal	PowerPoint Presentation	Business Plan
Rhetorical Purpose	Provide journalists or the public with information on a specific topic	Apply for a job	Provide readers with data and understanding	Define a problem and suggest a solution	Present information visually and orally	Make a case to start or change a business
Variations		Curriculum Vitae	Hiring Memo Topic Memo Recommendation Letter, Email	Research Proposal		
Major Traits	• Non-objective: press releases try to paint a business in the best possible light • Contains headline	• Attention to document design • Clear, concise language • Correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar very important	• First paragraph states purpose and intent • Majority of information presented in main body • Emphasis on conciseness • Document design and inclusion of figures and tables • Clear closing statement	• Defines a problem • Clear target audience • Considers reasonable options • Makes specific and realistic recommendation	• Strict attention to audience, purpose, and context • Integration of outside media sources (videos, links) • Attention to clarity and brevity • Clean visual design	• Attention to visual design and inclusion of tables and figures • Generally include title page, table of contents, executive summary, mission statement, company overview, financial plans

Sweet Sources & Strategies to Bring Literacy to Content Classes

Mathematics

- Check out Math Matters to see how professionals use math in the real world.
- Write a paragraph describing a math technique to solve a problem, or write an essay on all the different ways to solve a problem.
- Watch an episode of "Numb3rs", and write down mathematical ideas discussed in the show to share in class.
- Keep a math journal to write entries that use math vocabulary.
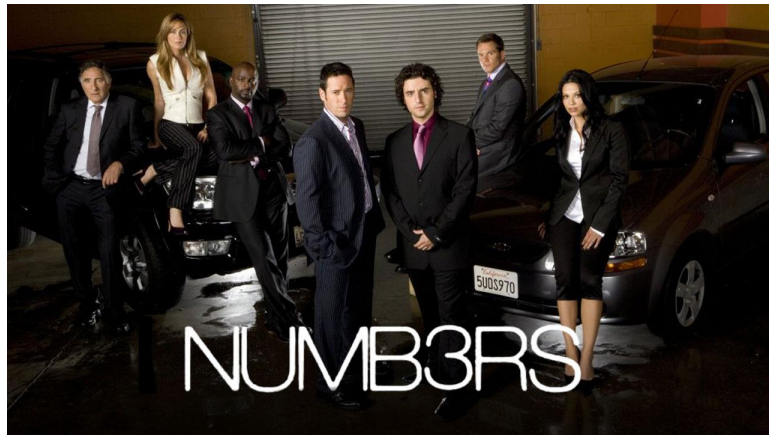
Science

- Read about current events within science using the following credible sources:

    NY Times – Science Section

   Science Times

    Advancing Science & Communication

    Science Daily

    Summarize, address and analyze the main idea; consider the impact of the event and relate the issue to school-related class material.

- Analyze a scientific journal article.
- Cite evidence in an article and use it to explain real-life phenomena.

History

- Engage in [DBQ](#) assignments to conduct historical inquiry and document analysis.
- Analyze a political cartoon's main idea and identify the author's persuasive appeals.
- Use an array of primary documents such as: Senate speeches, newspaper opinion pieces and Presidential speeches to explore historical time periods like American Imperialism.
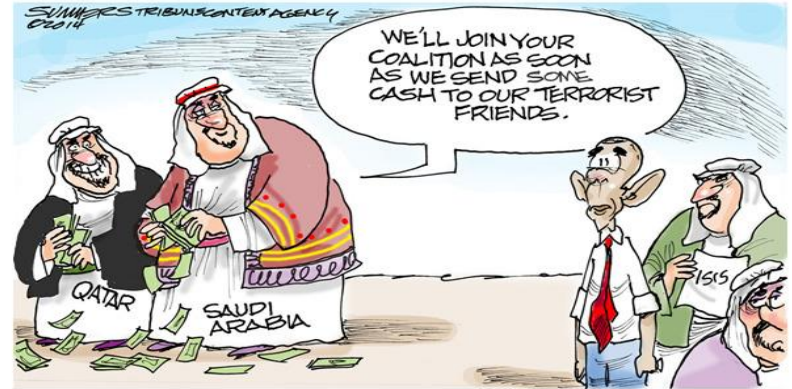
[Literacy Design Collaborative](#)

[Teaching Channel](#)

[Newsela](#)

[Adolescent Literacy](#)