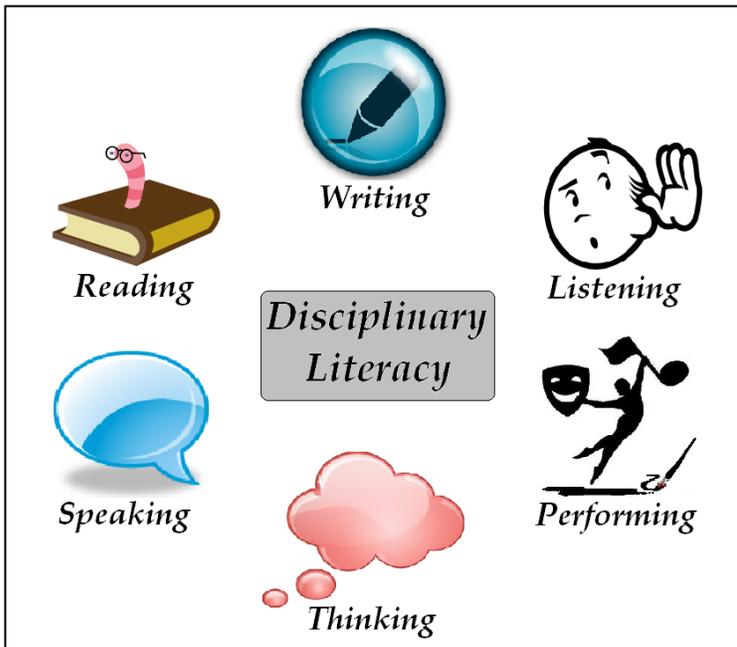


DISCIPLINARY LITERACY IN THE ARTS

TIP SHEET

Disciplinary Literacy (DL) - Wisconsin Definition

"Disciplinary literacy is defined as the confluence of content knowledge, experiences, and skills merged with the ability to read, write, listen, speak, think critically and perform in a way that is meaningful within the context of a given field."



What does DL mean for arts education?

For the arts, this definition supports the continual building of skills, knowledge, and techniques while focusing on the art form's elements. Fine Arts educators still will be fostering students' experiences with the arts through exploring, creating, responding, and performing. (WAEA article, 2013)



Disciplinary Literacy is NOT...

- the new name for content area reading (Shanahan, 2012).
- for language arts only.
- a "fix-all" to replace general reading strategies (Ratzell, 2011).
- focused on every teacher's a reading teacher (Faggella-Luby, et al., 2012).

Disciplinary Literacy IS...

- aimed at what we teach versus how we teach.
- exploring the content knowledge, experiences, and skills needed to develop proficiency.
- a set of tools (reading, writing, listening, speaking, thinking, and performing) to support a more in-depth study of a content area.

The arts have unique symbolic systems of communication, allowing people across countries, cultures, and time to connect. The brain takes in these symbols which may include letters, numbers, icons, notes, auditory cues and various imagery and makes meaning of the ideas. The symbols are representative ideas and messages for the learner to decipher. This "informational text" presents opportunities for the learner to internalize and then apply through exploring further, creating, responding, and performing.



Eight Steps to Building Art Knowledge through Literacy

1. Build prior knowledge.
2. Build specialized vocabulary.
3. Learn to deconstruct complex visual representation of ideas.
4. Use knowledge of artistic elements and genres to identify main and subordinate ideas within the piece.
5. Articulate what the graphic representations mean within a work or ideas to support its main components.
6. Pose discipline relevant questions.
7. Compare artistic elements of the work to other artwork.
8. Use reasoning within the discipline (What counts as evidence to evaluation claims.)

Check the [TEMPLATE](#) for ideas.

DL Arts Resources Online

- [DPI Fine Arts and Creativity Education Newsletter](#)
- [Fine Arts Pedagogy Sites](#)- Arts examples include:
 - [Jazz - Similes](#) - Gr. 4- 5; 14 minute video
 - [I See Literacy](#) - Gr. 4; 2 minute video.
 - [Communication Through Movement](#) - Gr. K- 5; 12 minute video.
- [DPI Disciplinary Literacy Site](#)

 <p>Exploring Symbolism: Your Life as Abstract Art - Grades 3 – 5. 6 minute video</p>	 <p>Using the Arts to Promote Critical Thinking - Grades K- 5. 15 minute video</p>
 <p>D.I.Y. Old-Time Radio- Grades 3- 12. Interactive site</p>	 <p>Literacy Through Creative Dance with Students – Gr. 9- 12. 5 minute video</p>
 <p>Angelou and Wynton Collaborate: Red Hot Holiday Stomp - 9 minute video</p>	 <p>Lesson; From the Top episode- High school scat singer. 8 minute video</p>

DL Fine Arts Informational Text Examples

[Wisconsin's Approach to Literacy in All Subjects: What is Disciplinary Literacy?](#) - This document defines DL and types of informational text for use in content areas. Here are some “text” examples in the arts.

<p>Textbooks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instrumental music lesson books • Artist technique books 	<p>Journal and magazine articles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music Alive • Cool Careers • Insidescoop (National Gallery of Art) 	<p>Historical primary documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Composer/Artist letters • Musical scores, artwork • Artist’s notebooks • Scripts, choreography
<p>Full length books</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Composer biographies • Autobiographies of artists 	<p>Newspaper articles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New York Times Critique of the 55th Annual Grammys • Local news sources with arts news 	<p>Multimedia/ digital texts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classics for Kids • Sound files- Dallas Symphony Kids • 2 min. video (PreK- 2) - Sophie and Bella critique the Scream

Newsletter

Check for additional DL examples within the monthly newsletter, available at http://cal.dpi.wi.gov/cal_finearts-creativity. Contact Julie to be included on the email list for future issues.

CONTACT INFORMATION



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