LITERACY SUPPORTS

Our Critical Questions

What are the challenges that we face regarding literacy in secondary classrooms?

What are effective ways of ensuring content learning as we improve literacy?
"Our high schools were designed 50 years ago to meet the needs of another age. Today, most jobs that allow you to support a family require some postsecondary education. Unfortunately, only 1/2 of all students who enter high school ever enroll in a postsecondary institution. That means that 1/2 of all students starting high school today are unlikely to get a job that allows them to support a family."
The Challenge

- Large volume of information Same amount of instructional time
- High expectations for student achievement
- Greater cultural diversity among students
- Value of the content is questioned
- Unrealistic planning expectations
- Learning is difficult for many students

For some students, it simply boils down to this: they lack Content Literacy...
Learning Objectives for this section:

• Demonstrate understanding of the challenges faced by educators regarding secondary literacy.
• Define Content literacy.
• Demonstrate an understanding of various teaching devices to enhance instruction and student literacy in his/her discipline area.
Definitions

Content Literacy:

• the listening, speaking, reading and writing skills and strategies necessary to learn in each of the academic disciplines.

• the door to content acquisition.
Definitions

Content Enhancement:

• a strategic approach to promoting literacy across the secondary curriculum

• both group and individual needs are valued and met;

• enables all students to cognitively access the curriculum;

• the integrity of the content is maintained;

• critical features of the content are selected and transformed in a manner that promotes student learning; and

• instruction is carried out in a partnership with students.
WHO BENEFITS AND WHY IT MATTERS

Focuses on helping All students learn critical content required in the core curriculum, regardless of literacy levels.

Teachers compensate for limited literacy levels by using targeted planning, explicit teaching routines, and visual devices to promote content mastery.
Essential qualities and/or relevant characteristics

Learning is enhanced when teachers:

• Focus on “how” to learn, as well as “what” to learn
• Model/Demonstrate learning and performance for students
• Include guided as well as independent practice
• Provide well-designed feedback
• Feature frequent review
# Teaching Devices that Enhance

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<th>Types used to:</th>
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**Other info (not included above)**

**SMARTER PLANNING AND TEACHING**

- Select Critical Outcomes & Questions
- Map the Critical Content
- Analyze Potential Difficulties
- Reach Enhancement & Design Decisions
- Teach Strategically
- Evaluate Student Outcomes
“If it weren’t for students impeding our progress in our race to the end of the term, we could certainly be sure of covering the material. The question, however, is not whether we as teachers can get to the end of the text or the end of the term, but whether students are with us on that journey.”

Pat Cross
Director of the Classroom Research Project
University of California, Berkeley