Literacy Instruction and the Florida Standards: Helping Teachers Succeed in a Time of Change

Diana Fedderman
April 3, 2015
Agenda

0 Rigor and What It Means in the Classroom

0 Best Practices for Writing Across the Curriculum

0 Resources
Rigor and What It Means in a Classroom
Goals: College and Career Ready

• Thirty-five years ago, only 12% of U.S. jobs required some postsecondary training or an associate’s degree, and only 16% required a bachelor’s degree or higher.

• Nearly eight in ten future job openings in the next decade in the U.S. will require postsecondary education or training.

• 45% percent will be in “middle level” occupations, which require at least some postsecondary education training.

• 33% will be in high-skilled occupations for which a bachelor’s degree or more is required.
Goals: College and Career Ready

• Only 22% of future job openings will be “low skill” and accessible to those with a high school diploma or less.

• While the U.S. still ranks 3rd in the adult population (25-64 year olds) with an associate’s degree or higher among 30 countries, we now rank 10th among 25-34 year olds with a two-year degree and above.

  Competing countries are catching up to – and even outpacing – the U.S. in the educational attainment of their new generation of adults.

Figure 2: Percentages of Educators Reporting that Their Students Are “Well” or “Very Well” Prepared for College-Level Work in Their Content Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>High School</th>
<th>College</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Interestingly, although the percentage of instructors of first-year college developmental (i.e., remedial) courses reporting that students left their courses well or very well prepared was nearly as high in 2012 as that of the high school teachers (87 percent vs. 89 percent), 13 percent of college developmental instructors reported that their students were “poorly” or “very poorly” prepared for credit-bearing college coursework even after completing a developmental course.

- Clear majorities of educators believe that at least half of their students possess an appropriate degree of reading comprehension.
Myths and Facts

1. Rigor means more work in class and at home.
2. If you have rigorous standards, you have a rigorous course.
3. Rigor means harder.
4. Rigor is a matter of content.
5. Younger students cannot engage in rigorous instruction.
6. In order to engage in rigor, students must first master the basics.
7. Providing support means lessening rigor.
8. Resources equal rigor.
Defining Rigor

- As a table group, list some of the characteristics of rigor.

Rigor requires teachers to create a learning environment where students use their knowledge to create meaning for a broader purpose.

Rigor requires students to not only learn the foundational knowledge of the content area, but to apply it to real-world situations.

Students demonstrate learning at high levels.

In simple terms, rigor requires cognitive complexity and student autonomy.
All of the LAFS (included in all subject areas) are no lower than a DOK 2.

Think of the questions in your textbooks. What DOK level do they represent?
Stanislaus County Office of Education

Offer DOK activities for various content areas.
Best Practices: Writing across the Curriculum
Academic Benefits

0 According to *Literacy Instruction in the Content Areas: Getting to the Core of Middle and High School Improvement* (2007), Heller and Greenleaf found that in order to bring students’ literacy skills up to grade level, two concepts have to be embraced: embedding of literacy instruction in content courses and access to resources for these teachers.

0 According to *Reading Next* (2004), Biancarosa and Snow found the following practices resulted in improved student achievement:

- Teaching of writing skills specific to subjects such as science and math
- Differentiating writing instruction for students who need extra assistance
- Including writing in daily lessons
Brockton High School

- 1999 - Lowest test scores in the state of Mass.
- 2000 - Every teacher incorporated reading and writing strategies/activities in every class.
- 2001 - Test scores rose dramatically (enough for the state education commissioner to make a school visit).
- 2008 - Brockton High School outscored 90% of other schools on state assessments.
Common Definitions

- On your own: what does literacy in content area classrooms look like?

- Turn and talk: what does literacy in content area classrooms look like?

- Can the staff agree on what literacy in content area classrooms looks like?
Preparing for College

Distribution of writing tasks based on 2100 writing assignments collected from 400 undergraduate courses (natural and applied sciences, business, social sciences, and arts and humanities)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of Writing Task</th>
<th>Percentage of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transactional</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Express</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poetic</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Transactional writing is equivalent to the argumentative and informational categories of the Florida Standards.

Melzer, Dan. “Writing Assignments Across the Curriculum: A National Study of College Writing”
Resources
Art Project Powered by Google

- A unique collaboration with some of the world’s most acclaimed art museums (184) to enable people to discover and view more than a thousand artworks online in extraordinary detail.

- Explore museums with Street View technology
- Artwork view
- Create your own collection
Partners

- Freer Gallery of Art, Smithsonian, Washington DC – USA
- The Frick Collection, NYC – USA
- The Metropolitan Museum of Art, NYC – USA
- MoMA, The Museum of Modern Art, NYC – USA
- National Gallery, London – UK
- Palace of Versailles – France
- Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam – The Netherlands
Sample Task- History

Da Vinci created this map of the Chiana Valley in Tuscany for his patron Cesare Borgia. Explain how it provided Borgia with a tactical advantage to have an overlay of the land. Be sure to reference particular features of the map in your response.
Describe two characteristics of the geometric figures found in the painting. Be sure to use geometric terms to describe the figures.
In Munch’s The Scream, one theory is that the painter depicted the red sky as an effect from a recent volcanic explosion in Krakatoa. Explain how the explosion could result in the red sky miles away.
Document-based questions and the use of primary and secondary sources give students the opportunity to investigate history from a variety of perspectives. Learning this way not only deepens student understanding of history, it also builds reading, thinking, and writing skills.
Beyond the Bubble: Stanford Directions

The following two letters are both from the archives of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and were written over twenty years apart. Read the letters and determine which was written first. Then explain your answers using evidence from the letters and your knowledge of history.

Letter A: First Lady of the United States to Walter White, Executive Secretary of the NAACP, addressing the lynching situation.

Letter B: Daisy Bates to Roy Wilkins, Executive Secretary of the NAACP, describing the conditions of black children in an all-white school.
The Literacy Design Collaborative (LDC)

**Actions and Reactions**

From your readings, list British actions that disturbed the colonists. Then list why the colonists were disturbed, and identify your evidence.

- **Grades**: 5 - 12
- **Discipline**: Social Studies
- **Pacing**: 30 mins
- **Attachments**: 2
- **Skill**: Post-Reading > Citing Evidence

**America's Burden? US Imperialism (1890-1909)**

Students use primary documents that include Senate speeches, newspaper opinion pieces, and Presidential speeches, to explore American Imperialism in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This module is...

- **Grades**: 11 - 12
- **Discipline**: Social Studies
- **Course**: US History or...
- **Attachments**: 10
- **By**: Rachel McCormick and Stephanie Schneider
- **Template**: Template Task 11 - Informational or Explanatory

**Body Paragraph Outline**

Write an outline for your body paragraph including (A) Topic Sentence; (B) Two Pieces of Textual Evidence with Sources; (D) Analysis; and (E) Summary.

- **Grades**: 6 - 12
- **Discipline**: Social Studies
- **Pacing**: 40 mins
- **Attachments**: 4
- **Skill**: Outlining
American Rhetoric

Online Speech Bank

Database of and index to 5000+ full text, audio and video versions of public speeches, sermons, legal proceedings, lectures, debates, interviews, other recorded media events, and a declaration or two.

See also a special issue: The Rhetoric of 9-11

Top 100 Speeches

Full text, audio, and video database of the 100 most significant American political speeches of the 20th century, according to 137 leading scholars of American public address, as compiled by Stephen E. Lucas (University of Wisconsin-Madison) and Martin J. Medhurst (Baylor University). Find out who made the cut and experience the power of rhetorical eloquence in this provocative list of “who’s who” in American public address.

Rhetorical Figures in Sound

200+ short audio and video clips illustrating stylistic figures of speech ranging from alliteration to synecdoche. Clips are taken from speeches, movies, sermons, and sensational media events and delivered by politicians, actors, preachers, athletes, and other notable personalities.

Key Figure: Antimetabole

Movie Speeches

Full text, audio and video database of some 210 Hollywood movie speeches. Included are military movie speeches, sports-oriented movie speeches, forensic movie speeches, and social-political movie speeches, among others.
Quake's damage in Napa highlights fears that retrofitting isn't enough

Retrofitting a brick building involves bolting brick walls to ceilings and floors. The hope is that they are able to withstand earthquakes. But Sunday's quake proved otherwise.

International underwater robotics challenge a focus for Seattle teens

The only U.S. team in the competition is made up of three girls who love math and science. Their underwater robot was created on a budget, with donated items and whatever else they could find.

Saving the elephant population means using special breeding

Zoos have not been very successful breeding captive elephants. Project Frozen Dumbo is a program that hopes to change that by collecting and freezing wild elephant sperm for zoos.
International underwater robotics challenge a focus for Seattle teens

By Seattle Times, adapted by Newsela staff

Aug. 21, 2014
Grade level: 7

Word count: 862

For each article, you can print it out at different Lexiles.

For most articles, you can access a five question quiz.
Questions are tied to the Florida Standards.

Grade 7, Standard 2: Central Ideas

2. Select the sentence that BEST supports the central idea of the article.

A "The fact I get to do this before I have my driver's license is crazy," said Hannah, 17, who also was picked to deliver the opening speech at the competition.

B "We want to give somebody the confidence to try it (robotics) for themselves, even if they don't know anyone else doing it."

C The teens have rebuilt the ROV (remotely operated vehicle) three times within about a month.

D "They would go one step forward and three steps back for months," said Ashley McConnaughey, mother of Hannah and Haley.
Actively Learn

Select an article on different subjects.
Larry Norton sees some of the toughest cases as deputy physician-in-chief for breast cancer at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. He has access to the most advanced imaging machines, the best surgeons and numerous new tumor-fighting drugs. But often the fancy technology helps only temporarily. Sometimes a big tumor will shrink dramatically during chemotherapy. Then all of a sudden it comes back in seven or eight locations simultaneously.

Norton thinks adding more mathematics to the crude science of cancer therapy will help. He says that oncologists need to spend more time devising and analyzing equations that describe how fast tumors grow, how quickly cancer cells develop resistance to therapy and how often they spread to other organs. By taking such a quantitative approach, researchers may be able to create drug combinations that are far more effective than the ones now in use. “I have a suspicion that we are using almost all the cancer drugs in the wrong way,” he says. “For all I know, we may be able to cure cancer with existing agents.”
Native Americans

Why do Sioux eat buffalo and Native Americans eat from trees?

Go to the collection

Transportation

While there would be many areas of “progress” that student could examine, this documentary kit focuses on changes in transportation and its impact on society. Ultimately students grapple with the concept of “progress” and answer the following question:

Since the Industrial Revolution, have advances in transportation created progress?

Go to the Collection

Presidential Inaugurations

Have Inauguration Day ceremonies been changed because of the US Constitution?

Go to the collection

A partnership between the College of William & Mary School of Education, the University of Kentucky College of Education, and the Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources Program
inaugural addresses, next came radio transmissions, then televised coverage of the main event. For the most recent inauguration of Barack Obama, we saw official media coverage and could stream, download, email, blog, tweet, browse and completely digitally immerse ourselves in the events that spanned several days. Such an event is inevitably going to send a message to the rest of the world about our representative democracy. What message have past inaugurations sent? As you investigate the documents, images, and audio files provided, keep in mind the following question:

Question: Have Inauguration Day ceremonies effectively embodied the principles of the US Constitution?

Introduction to Collection:

Most of the documents in this kit have been selected from The Inauguration of George Washington: "I plead the cause of the Constitution, and of the Federal government which the people of the United States have provided for themselves. The people have given us to understand that America's overall concept of inauguration ceremonies can be analyzed in comparison to the principles of the Constitution. The Library of Congress' collection of over 400 items can be viewed in its entirety at: http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/pihtml/pihome.html

Standards: NCSS Theme IV – Power, Authority, and Governance

High School Knowledge Objectives: Students will understand the fundamental principles of American constitutional democracy: popular sovereignty, the rule of law, separation of powers, checks and balances, minority rights, separation of church and state, Federalism, the common good, liberty, justice, equality, and individual dignity.
200 Free Kids Educational Resources: Video Lessons, Apps, Books, Websites & More

Open Culture has free movie clips, ebooks, textbooks, and resources for teachers.
New Year... New Blog...

FEB 2ND

Posted by misschaffey in Uncategorized

Many of the students from 3/4C are now in 5/6C and would love you to come visit their new class blog by clicking here. Link is now fixed!

Print Friendly

What a year...

DEC 27TH

Posted by misschaffey in school

3/4C share their top 5 things that they learned or enjoyed at school this year...

Edublogs.org: Free education blogs for teachers and schools
Contact Information

Diana Fedderman  
Director of Secondary Education  
Palm Beach County School District  
561-434-8255  
diana.fedderman@palmbeachschools.org