Embrace Disciplinary Literacy for Deep Literacy and Content Learning in Grades 6-12

Vicky Zygouris-Coe, Ph.D.
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DEEPER LEARNING COMPETENCIES

• Master core academic content
• Think critically and solve complex problems
• Work collaboratively
• Communicate effectively
• Learn how to learn
• Develop academic mindsets
What is Disciplinary Literacy?

• “Disciplinary literacy involves the use of reading, reasoning, investigating, speaking, and writing required to learn and form complex content knowledge appropriate to a particular discipline.” (McConachie & Petrosky, 2010, p. 16).

• DL involves close/critical reading of complex texts, deep understanding, collection of evidence across sources, an inquiry approach to learning, collaborative inquiry, and reflection.
What DL is Not

- DL is not a new term for “reading in the content areas” and general literacy strategies about accessing and organizing text.
- DL’s goal is to help each student read and comprehend the texts of each discipline, and develop discipline-specific habits of reading, writing, speaking, knowing, and communicating that will help develop both his/her content and literacy.
DL Learning Framework

• DL Focus:
  a. What are students doing as learners in each discipline? (modeling, observation, active practice)
  b. How are teachers supporting students’ learning? (modeling, observation, active practice, coaching, guided reflection)

• DL Learning Framework:
  1. Knowledge and thinking go hand in hand
  2. Learning is apprenticeship
  3. Teachers as mentors of apprentices
  4. Classroom culture socializes intelligence
  5. Instruction and assessment drive each other
DL Framework


*Figure 2.2: Literacy as a Discipline-Specific Process*
Why Learn about Disciplinary Literacy?

- Fits Grades 6-12 learning, infrastructure, goals
- Increased content and literacy learning—happening in tandem!
- Meeting CCSS, LAFS, NGSS, & other standards
- College and career readiness
- Development of habits of thinking per discipline
- Rigorous teaching & learning
- Value of collaborative inquiry
- Development of listening & speaking, writing, & inquiry
English Language Arts (ELA)

- Interpretive reading
- Interpretive discussions
- Big ideas
- Big questions
- Underlying assumptions
- Critical thinking
Disciplinary Literacy & ELA

• Students read complex texts carefully and critically.
• Inquiry learning, deep literary engagement.
• Students explore, defend, and elaborate their thinking about texts, concepts, learning, and express it in oral and written form.
• Evidence-based reading and writing.
• Making thinking visible through accountable talk, collaborative discussions, and writing.
DL & Social Studies: History as Argument

- **Sourcing**
  - Examine source information
  - Analyze primary sources
- **Corroboration**
  - Read multiple accounts and perspectives
- **Contextualization**
  - Understand Historical Context
- **Close reading**
  - Use evidence to support claims
  - Ask good questions
  - Read, analyze, write
8 Scientific Practices (NGSS, NRC)

1. Asking questions (for science) and defining problems (for engineering)
2. Developing and using models
3. Planning and carrying out investigations
4. Analyzing and interpreting data
5. Using mathematics and computational thinking
6. Constructing explanations (for science) and designing solutions (for engineering)
7. Engaging in argument from evidence
8. Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information
Scientific Inquiry

• Make observations
• Ask scientifically oriented questions
• Collect, represent, and interpret data
• Draw evidence/data-based conclusions
• Communicate results
8 Mathematical Practices (CCSS, 2012)

1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
4. Model with mathematics.
5. Use appropriate tools strategically.
6. Attend to precision.
7. Look for and make use of structure.
8. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.
Accountable Talk: Definition

• Accountable Talk refers to:
  • **Accountability to the Learning Community**: is “talk that attends seriously to and builds on the ideas of others; participants listen carefully to one another, build on each other’s ideas, and ask each other questions aimed at clarifying or expanding a proposition” (Michaels et al., 2007).
  • **Accountability to Standards of Reasoning** “is talk that emphasizes logical connections and the drawing of reasonable conclusions.
  • **Accountability to knowledge**: “is based explicitly on facts, written texts or other publicly accessible information that all individuals can access.”
Source: V. Zygouris-Coe, 2012 in  
http://vocablog-plc.blogspot.com/2012/03/what-is-disciplinary-literacy-and-why.html

**English Language Arts**
1. Can you give us some evidence from the text that supports your assertion?
2. Using evidence from the text, what next action should the main character take to resolve the situation?
3. What is the purpose of the metaphors used throughout the text?

**Accountable Talk**

**Mathematics**
1. Is this variable important? Can you explain why it is/isn't?
2. What information is essential to the problem?
3. Could you explain how your solution to the problem worked?

**Science**
1. What are the steps in your scientific method?
2. What are the advantages of this solution? Can you provide some evidence?
3. What science rules should be followed in ...?

**Social Studies**
1. I'm not sure I see the relevance of this point in your conclusion....Can you help me understand it? How is it relevant?
2. What tensions (*political, economic, social, racial*, etc.) existed at that time?
3. What are five key words in this primary document and what do they mean?
Disciplinary Literacy Elements for Every Classroom

• Rigorous learning environments
• Classroom norms that reflect high expectations, & habits of mind
• Large amounts of close, purposeful, rigorous, and critical reading followed by discussions
• Writing
• Ongoing academic discussions, collaborations
• Much teacher modeling, facilitation, & monitoring of student learning
Thank You!

Thank you for all you daily to support teachers’ and students’ needs!

Vicky Zygouris-Coe, Ph.D.

vzygouri@ucf.edu