What's the Buzz Around Disciplinary Literacy?

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Roger Howard
Rachel Lang-Daniels
Disciplinary Literacy

Disciplinary literacy moves beyond the common strategies used across all content areas and focuses on the unique strategies experts use to engage with text in that discipline. (Shanahan, 2012)

Teachers must move from transmitting information to showing students how to engage in the literacies that make up their discipline. (Lent, 2016)

Being literacy in a discipline means understanding the content, discourses, and habits of mind utilized by experts (Fang & Coatoam, 2013)
Increasing Specialization in Literacy

**Basic Literacy:** Literacy skills such as decoding and knowledge of high-frequency words that underlie virtually all reading tasks.

**Intermediate Literacy:** Literacy skills common to many tasks, including generic comprehension strategies, common word meanings, and basic fluency.

**Disciplinary Literacy:** Literacy skills specialized to history, science, mathematics, literature, or other subject matter.
Content Area Literacy vs. DL

Outside-In vs. Inside-out
Disciplinary Practices in Math

- Reread
- Learn the Names of Variables Before Reading Formula
- Read Equations with Appropriate Directionality
- Learn Accurate Definitions
- Detect Errors
- Recognize Distracting information
My Favorite No
Disciplinary Practices in Science

- Transform
- Write for Different Audiences and Purposes
- Learn Science Vocabulary
- Take Notes
- Understand the Language of Science
Morphology

Common Word Roots

Common Greek Roots
- aqu water
- biblio book
- chrono time
- geo earth
- photo light

Common Latin Roots
- audi hear
- circ round
- jur law
- manu hand
- pac peace
## Common Content Area Morphemes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Morpheme</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Content Words</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>polygon</td>
<td>more than one measure angle</td>
<td>polygon, polyhedron perimeter, metric, centimeter hexagon, diagonal, pentagon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>interdemism</td>
<td>between relating to people practice or belief</td>
<td>international, intercontinental democracy, demographic, epidemic Socialism, Hinduism, Communism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>typbioize</td>
<td>model or figure life to do</td>
<td>phenotype, prototype, genotype antibiotic, biosphere, biology hypothesize, standardize, stylize</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Disciplinary Practices in History

- Sourcing
- Contextualization
- Corroboration
- Analyzing Relationships Among Events
- Use of Interpretive Frameworks
- Reading Multiple Genres
- Understanding the Language of History
- Writing History
Reading Like a Historian

Omisha
11th Grader
Disciplinary Practices in English

• Reading Different Interpretations of the Same Text
• Learn the Structure of Argument
• Learn the Language of Literary Criticism
• Learn How to Recognize Themes
Finding a Theme: Character Change Chart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is main character like at the beginning of the story?</th>
<th>What is the main character like at the end of the story? How has he or she changed?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Given the change, what did the author want you to know?

Shanahan, 2018
Inquiry Domains

1. Which disciplinary habits of mind are most important to highlight in a given unit or lesson?
2. Which literacy skills are required to complete the tasks in a lesson?
3. How might a lack of literacy skills inhibit students from accessing content?
4. Which intermediate skills might need explicit reinforcement?
5. Which skills are for discipline-specific exploration?
Four Corners Activity

• Select one of the four core subject areas in which you would feel comfortable applying the previous inquiry domain questions to a lesson and move to designated corner.

• Read the lesson plan provided. Discuss each of the 5 questions as they pertain to the lesson.

• Be prepared to share-out the highlights of your discussion and how the inquiry domains supported DL within the lesson.