

Literacy in the Discipline and Disciplinary Literacy: A Place for Both

It is incorrect to say that disciplinary literacy is a replacement for general reading and writing strategy instruction. Learners who struggle with reading and writing do not possess the foundational skills and strategies necessary to learn proficiently and need access to both. Educators need to understand and know when to use general reading and writing strategies *as well as* discipline specific reading and writing strategies.

General Reading Strategies

Monitor comprehension

Pre-read

Set goals

Think about what one already knows

Ask questions

Make predictions

Test predictions against the text

Re-read

Summarize

Disciplinary-Specific Reading Strategies

Build prior knowledge

Build specialized vocabulary

Learn to deconstruct complex sentences

Use knowledge of text structures and genres to predict main and subordinate ideas

Map graphic (and mathematical) representations against explanations in the text

Pose discipline relevant questions

Compare claims and propositions across texts

Use norms for reasoning within the discipline (i.e., what counts as evidence) to evaluate claims