



Middle School Literacy

Definition:

Literacy is the ability to read, write, listen, speak, compute, and think strategically. It transcends to all content areas and is the foundation to transfer learning to new situations and contexts.

Guiding Question

What strategies can I incorporate to help increase my students' ability to read and comprehend what they're reading?

Critical Analysis Strategies

The Matthew Effect: A study in the *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research* indicates that the Matthew Effect in relation to vocabulary skills directly impacts reading abilities.

- If students' vocabulary skills are lacking at specific intervals (4th, 8th, and 10th grade), their reading abilities suffer.
- The Matthew Effect is an accumulation of deficits

Semantic Maps

- Provides a visual and organized way to learn vocabulary
- Focuses on connections
- Can be used in a variety of ways including learning vocabulary

Frayer Diagram

- Helps students connect prior knowledge to unfamiliar words
- Provides a visual to assist students with learning words
- Allows for analysis of information

Word Walls

- Serves as a visual reminder of high frequency words
- Add words gradually (~5 words a week)
- Use words from content covered in class
- Use colors to help with connections
- Review the words on the wall often

Summarizing Tips

- Start with answering the essential question
- Consider writing one sentence for each heading/sub heading in notes
- Include information that will be on the test
- Make sure to clarify any points of confusion and adjust if needed
- Read your summary aloud; does it make sense and include the needed information to answer the essential question?

Teach Students How to Read Like a Writer

Read the entire book at least once | Look for the author's persuasion tactics | Take note of metaphors

Additional Resources

- [Disciplinary Literacy Strategies for Success](#)
- [The Influence of Reading on Vocabulary Growth: A Case for a Matthew Effect](#)
- [Supporting Literacy in the Science Classroom](#)
- [Integrate Disciplinary Literacy into Social Studies](#)