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

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