



WHAT IS UNIQUE ABOUT HOW WE HELP STUDENTS THINK IN SOCIAL STUDIES?

WHAT TYPES OF TEXTS DO STUDENTS NEED TO LEARN AND MANEUVER IN SOCIAL STUDIES?

BUILD CONTENT KNOWLEDGE THROUGH LITERACY – NOT THE OPPOSITE!



DISCIPLINARY LITERACY IN SOCIAL STUDIES TIP SHEET

What is Disciplinary Literacy?

*Disciplinary literacy (DL) is defined as the confluence of content knowledge, experiences, and skills merged with the ability to read, write, listen, speak, think critically, and perform in a way that is **meaningful within the context of a given field.***

DL IS:	DL is NOT:
Aimed at what we teach versus how we teach	The new name for content area literacy
Exploring the content knowledge, experiences, and skills to develop proficiency	For language arts only
A set of tools to support a more in-depth study of a content area	A “fix-all” to replace general reading strategies
Teaching students how to view issues and events as a professional in the content area	Focused on “every teacher is a reading teacher”

Social Studies DL resources online:

- DPI Social Studies Disciplinary Literacy site: <http://bit.ly/socstDL>
- DPI Disciplinary Literacy site: <http://dpi.wi.gov/standards/literacy-all-subjects>
- What is DL in Social Studies? Prezi: <http://bit.ly/2016DLprezi>

BUILD PRIOR
KNOWLEDGE AND
SPECIALIZED
VOCABULARY

USE POINT OF VIEW
THINKING TO TEASE
OUT QUESTIONS –
HOW WOULD A
HISTORIAN VIEW THIS
PHOTO?

DOCUMENT BASED
QUESTIONS
ENCOURAGE TEXT
COMPARISON AND
ENRICH WRITING
SKILLS

For more information, contact:

Kris McDaniel

Social Studies Consultant
kristen.mcdaniel@dpi.wi.gov
(608) 266-2207

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What is DL in Social Studies?

The social studies have unique systems of analysis, allowing people across countries, cultures, and time to connect. By focusing on point-of-view thought processes and authentic analysis of primary source documents *in all strands* of social studies, students learn how to communicate thoughtfully as a historian, political scientist, economist, geographer, or behavioral scientist.



What is a Text?

A text is any communication – spoken, written, or visual – involving language. This is an important delineation for social studies teachers. Here are some not-so-obvious “text” examples in social studies. For more examples, visit bit.ly/DLSScriticaltext

Examples of Texts

- Artifacts
- Census Reports
- Maps
- Diaries
- Podcasts
- Timelines
- Photographs
- Graphic Novels
- Charts & Graphs
- Newspaper Articles
- Political Cartoons
- Sound Recordings
- Multimedia/Digital Texts

