

What is Literacy?

Literacy is much more than the ability to read texts or the ability to write a coherent narrative. "Contemporary constructs, however, include everything from cyber and health literacy to mathematical and visual literacy." (CFP 2008) Thus, literacy is the ability to read, interpret, and manipulate the world: its codes, mores, conventions, symbols, and adjust to the rapid environment in which we live. (Literacy 1999) It transcends disciplines, continually shapes the mind's eye, and forces the individual to critically evaluate the world around him or her based. Essentially, literacy allows the individual to communicate with and negotiate the modern, ever-changing world.



CFP: [Rhetoric-Composition] Expanding Literacy Studies (May 2008) by Envera Dukaj. Retrieved from <http://cfp.english.upenn.edu> on 7 July 2008.

Literacy: An International Handbook (1999), edited by Daniel A. Wagner, Richard L. Venezky, and Brian V. Street and published by Westview Press: Boulder.

- How does high school English influence individual literacy?
 - encourages and fosters questioning
 - defines and illustrates cultural history
 - introduces and strengthens written expression
 - integrates past, present, and future practices, ideas

- What is the role of the English teacher?
 - create a safe, respectful climate
 - develop positive relationships
 - develop learning experiences that engage and challenge students to achieve
 - integrate opportunities to communicate on various levels and in various ways
 - actively participate in professional learning community

