

THE LOWDOWN ON CRITICAL LITERACY

In today's text and media-saturated world, students need more than just basic literacy skills. They need critical literacy skills.



WHAT IS CRITICAL LITERACY?

Critical literacy is an approach to teaching literacy that examines the relationship between language and power in various texts. Students critically analyze and evaluate the meaning of texts as they relate to topics on equity, power and social justice.



INFORMATION LITERACY + CRITICAL LITERACY A POWERFUL COMBINATION

Students must be able to "find, retrieve, analyze, synthesize and use information effectively and ethically", using skills from both information literacy and critical literacy.

DIMENSIONS OF CRITICAL LITERACY

- disrupting the commonplace
- considering multiple viewpoints
- examining sociopolitical issues
- taking action to promote social justice

Lewison, Flint & Van, 2002

ALL TEXTS ARE CONSTRUCTIONS

ALL TEXTS CONTAIN BELIEF & VALUE MESSAGES

WE ALL INTERPRET MESSAGES DIFFERENTLY

EACH MEDIUM HAS ITS OWN LANGUAGE

5 KEY CONCEPTS

TEXTS SERVE DIFFERENT INTERESTS

CRITICAL LITERACY ACROSS THE CURRICULUM



Ask:

- What message is the author trying to communicate?
- Are there viewpoints that are missing?
- What techniques are being used to influence the viewer?
- How might the text change if it had been written by someone else?
- Whose voices are not present in the text?
- What can be done about it?

INFORMATION SOURCES

- [Promoting Critical Literacy across the Curriculum and Fostering Safer Learning Environments](#) - Roberge, G., 2013
- [Capacity Building Series: Critical Literacy](#), The Literacy & Numeracy Secretariat, 2009
- [Critical Literacy? Information!](#) - Davis, H., 2010
- [Critical Literacy](#) - Coffee, H., 2018

