



Advanced Literacy Instruction Among Linguistically Diverse Learners

The introduction to the ELA standards states “today’s students need to develop an increasingly complex set of literacy skills and competencies... To be academically and personally successful in today’s literacy- and knowledge-based society and economy, every student needs to develop advanced literacies.” So what specifically are advanced literacies, and what does the corresponding instructional practice look like?

The Next Generation Learning Standards have a renewed focus on text complexity, lifelong reading and writing skills and habits, academic language, and the use of diverse types of literature and texts, collectively geared toward the 21st century language competencies that students will need. These advanced literacies are “the skills and competencies that enable communication in increasingly diverse ways and promote the understanding and use of text for a variety of purposes.” A great challenge of the day is teaching advanced literacy in classrooms to a variety of student skills and understanding. Through a focus on individual student needs, and a series of recommendations for the use of contemporary research-based methods tailored to meet new demands, this set of briefs serves as a guide toward meeting that challenge.

Briefs 1 & 2: Advanced Literacies and Reading Comprehension

[Brief 1: Advanced Literacies for Academic Success](#)

- Why they’re important
- Instruction across years
- Expected Outcomes

[Brief 2: Reading Comprehension](#)

- Code based + Meaning based = Reading

Briefs 3 through 6: The Hallmarks of Advanced Literacy Instruction

[Brief 3: Engaging texts with big ideas and rich content](#)

- Text complexity guidelines

[Brief 4: Talk and discussion to build conversational and academic language knowledge](#)

- Shifting perceptions of classroom talk

[Brief 5: Write to build language and knowledge](#)

- Writing types to fuel content mastery

[Brief 6: Small sets of high-utility vocabulary words to build breadth and depth of knowledge](#)

- Five principals of effective vocabulary instruction

Briefs 7-8: Instructional Spotlights

[Brief 7: Instructional Units of Study](#)

- Depth of Learning
- Learning as a Process
- Interactive Learning

[Brief 8: Language Production Projects](#)

- Organize unit around a compelling topic
- Build on Context knowledge from unit
- Built in opportunities to use targeted vocabulary