

Social Studies: K-12 Disciplinary Literacy in History

Course Overview

This facilitated five-week course will help teachers develop and enhance their understanding of disciplinary literacy and how it benefits students. Through many examples, teachers will consider how to create disciplinary literacy experiences for students and what to address when designing these experiences. In addition, they will see how the strategies of sourcing/close reading, corroboration, and contextualization help students approach a text, determine key ideas, critically evaluate the content, and communicate knowledge. Students benefit from these disciplinary-specific literacy skills and strategies for improved reading, writing, and historical thinking. Teachers will be provided with opportunities and materials to enhance their historical thinking skills.

Course Length

This facilitated course is divided into four content-based Sessions and includes the Welcome Folder and Useful Resources. The time for completing each Session is estimated to be between 4-6 hours, and the total amount of time required for the entire course is estimated to be 20 hours.

Goals/Objectives

- Learn how disciplinary literacy benefits students and teachers.
- Explain how understanding who authored a text is vital to gaining insight into the author's perspective.
- Explain how corroboration asks students to explore points of agreement and disagreement across multiple texts.
- Explore how time and place affect a document's content.

Course Outline

Session 1: Introduction to Disciplinary Literacy in History

Session 2: Sourcing and Close Reading

Session 3: Corroboration

Session 4: Contextualization

Session 5: Final Project Work Week to Complete building your disciplinary literacy lesson.

Course Expectations

Successful completion of the course will be based on the following requirements:

- Participants must complete the Academic Honesty Agreement.
- Participants must post substantively at least three times in each Session discussion forum.
- Participants must complete the course activities and readings in each Session.
- Participants must complete the course final project ("Building a Disciplinary Literacy Activity" under Groups) and submit it to the course facilitator.
- Participants must complete the final course survey.

Discussion Participation

Participants are required to post a minimum of two substantive posts in each discussion forum. Postings will be reviewed based on their relevance, demonstrated understanding of course concepts, examples cited, overall quality, degree to which they extend the discussion, and tone.

Final Product

As a final project, participants will create an historical thinking activity. Participants will choose a historical text (s), write student directions, provide background information for the source (s), and create questions relating to the skills of sourcing/close read, corroboration, and contextualization.