

Adolescent Literacy

Supplemental Resources for NCTE's Policy Research Brief

*This document is a supplement to
[Adolescent Literacy: A Policy Research Brief](#),
produced by the National Council of Teachers of English.*

Research Clips on Adolescent Literacy

Research Clips are short research-based responses to questions about practice. For more detailed explanations and a list of related research, see <http://www.ncte.org/library/files/Publications/Newspaper/Chron0907ResearchBrief.pdf>

Approaches to Improving Adolescents' Literacy Learning

What approaches respond to the unique needs of adolescent literacy learners?

Research findings point to strategies that have been helpful in improving adolescent literacy achievement:

- Demystify content-specific literacy practices
- Motivate through meaningful choice
- Engage students with real-world literacy practices
- Affirm multiple literacies
- Support learner-centered classroom environments
- Foster social responsibility through multicultural literacy

Characteristics of Adolescent Literacy

What makes the experiences of adolescent literacy learners unique?

Students experience many changes in their schooling and literacy practices during adolescence, including:

- engaging with new disciplinary content, texts, and writing tasks
- encountering new social literacy practices and drawing from various discourse communities in and out of school
- facing the challenges of engaging with academic literacy

Teacher Behaviors That Improve Adolescent Literacy Instruction

What strategies can teachers use to improve adolescent literacy instruction?

Highly effective adolescent literacy teachers share the following qualities:

- teaching with approaches that foster critical thinking, questioning, student decision-making, and independent learning
- addressing the diverse needs of adolescents whose literacy abilities vary considerably
- possessing personal characteristics such as caring about students, being creative and collaborative, and loving to read and write
- developing a solid knowledge about and commitment to literacy instruction
- using significant quality and quantity of literacy activities, such as hands-on, scaffolding, mini-lessons, discussions, group work, student choice, ample feedback, and multiple forms of expression
- participating in ongoing professional development
- developing quality relationships with students
- managing the classroom effectively

NCTE Policy Positions

Adolescent Literacy: A Policy Research Brief

<http://www.ncte.org/library/files/Publications/Newspaper/Chron0907ResearchBrief.pdf>

NCTE Principles of Adolescent Literacy Reform: A Research Brief

http://www.ncte.org/library/files/About_NCTE/Overview/Adol-Lit-Brief.pdf

A Call to Action: What We Know about Adolescent Literacy and Ways to Support Teachers in Meeting Students' Needs: A Position/Action Statement from NCTE's Commission on Reading May 2004

<http://www.ncte.org/about/over/positions/category/read/118622.htm>

NCTE Resources

Frequently Asked Questions about Adolescent and Young Adult Literacy (AYAL)

<http://www.ncte.org/edpolicy/literacy/about/122356.htm>

Key Terms: Adolescent and Young Adult Literacy <http://www.ncte.org/edpolicy/literacy/about/122379.htm>

2007 NCTE Legislative Platform Adolescent Literacy <http://www.ncte.org/about/issues/action/126958.htm>

Useful Links

Adolescent Literacy and the Achievement Gap: What Do We Know and Where Do We Go from Here?

<http://www.all4ed.org/resources/CarnegieAdolescentLiteracyReport.pdf>

Reading Next: A Vision for Action and Research in Middle and High School Literacy

<http://www.all4ed.org/publications/ReadingNext/ReadingNext.pdf>

The State of Writing Instruction in America's Schools: What Existing Data Tell Us

(This publication can be found under the Research tab on the CELA site.)

<http://cela.albany.edu>

Implementing the No Child Left Behind Act: Using Student Engagement to Improve Adolescent Literacy

<http://www.learningpt.org/pdfs/qkey10.pdf>

Adolescents and Literacy: Reading for the 21st Century

<http://www.all4ed.org/publications/AdolescentsAndLiteracy.pdf>

Supporting Adolescent Literacy in the Content Areas

<http://www.alliance.brown.edu/pubs/perspectives/adlitcontent.pdf>

Adolescent Literacy: Research Needs

http://www.nifl.gov/partnershipforreading/adolescent/research_needs.html

The Literacy Coach: A Key to Improving Teaching and Learning in Secondary Schools

<http://www.all4ed.org/publications/LiteracyCoach.pdf>

ACT National Curriculum Survey 2005-2006

<http://www.act.org/path/policy/pdf/NationalCurriculumSurvey2006.pdf>

NAEP Reading Results: Executive Summary for Grades 4 and 8

http://nationsreportcard.gov/reading_math_2005/s0002.asp