Academic Literacy Summit 2012: What’s at the Core of Academic Literacy

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Academic Literacy Summits at UCD: What’s at the Core?
- Urgent need to meet the academic needs of diverse youth in the region
- Collaborative planning & regional resources
- An emerging field
- Framing question per year
- Using new understandings to drive next-year planning

Four Annual Summits (2008-11): Framing Questions
- (2008) What are our conceptions of academic literacy?
- (2009) What out-of-school literacies support the in-school work of academic literacy development?
- (2010) What role(s) does writing play in academic literacy development? How can it best be taught to all learners?
- (2011) What bridges can we build from

2011 Academic Literacy Summit asks:
- What’s at the core of academic literacy?

What are Core Standards?
- Core skills and knowledge
  - "Identify essential college- and career-ready skills and knowledge in reading, writing, and speaking and listening across the disciplines."
- Promote engagement in:
  - comprehension of texts
  - composition of texts
  - discussion about ideas

What are Core Standards?
- Core Standards emphasize Intermediate-level literacy practices
Intersection of Common Core & Academic Literacy

- “What is taught is just as important as how it is taught” (CCS Introduction)
- ALS highlights both content and instructional approaches
- ALS moves beyond the Core of the Common Core Content Standards

Tapping Students’ Out-of-School Literacies

- Autobiography, Biography and Letter Journals: Using Family Knowledge and Home Literacies to Promote Writing
  - Michele Fortes (2009)

Comprehension strategies to support content area learning

- Reading, Understanding, and Summarizing Expository Text
  - Debra Schneider (2010)

Strategizing the planning and writing of essays

- Writing a Wrong—Connecting Authenticity, Engagement, and Assessment
  - LaRae Blomquist & Emily Diehl (2011)

Title

- Topic Knowledge, Vocabulary, and Grammatical Structures: Three Key Elements of Academic Language

Scaling a Pyramid of Academic Literacy

- Shanahan & Shanahan (2008)

Disciplinary: specialized language

Intermediate: specialized processes

Basic: skills that underlie all reading tasks (decoding, knowledge of high frequency words)
History of addressing the Core at ALS

- Sessions that develop intermediate literacy
  - Provide foundation for developing discipline-specific literacies
- Placing the end in the beginning
  - Description of a reading program by Michael Cole
  - Diverse 3rd graders working with Macbeth
- Sessions that develop discipline-specific literacies
  - Do not save "good stuff" for end of high school or college

Learning how stories promote communication and ideas

- Developing Early-Literacy Skills Among Preschool Students

Understanding the role of language in historical thinking and understanding

- Literacy in History: Language and Meaning
  - Mary Schleppegrell, Stacey Greer, & Sarah Taylor (2008)

Problem-solving to think like mathematicians

- F.I.N.D.: Fantastically Integrated Number Development
  - Bev Batha & Diana Zaragoza (2009)

Observing phenomena & testing hypotheses in support of scientific thinking

- A Work in Progress: Helping All Students Achieve
  - Nicole DiRanna (2011)

Using arg

- Prove It! Using Argumentation to Improve Students’ Oral and Written Communication Skills
  - Marlene Carter (2011)