Instructional Strategies

Ensuring Access for All Students

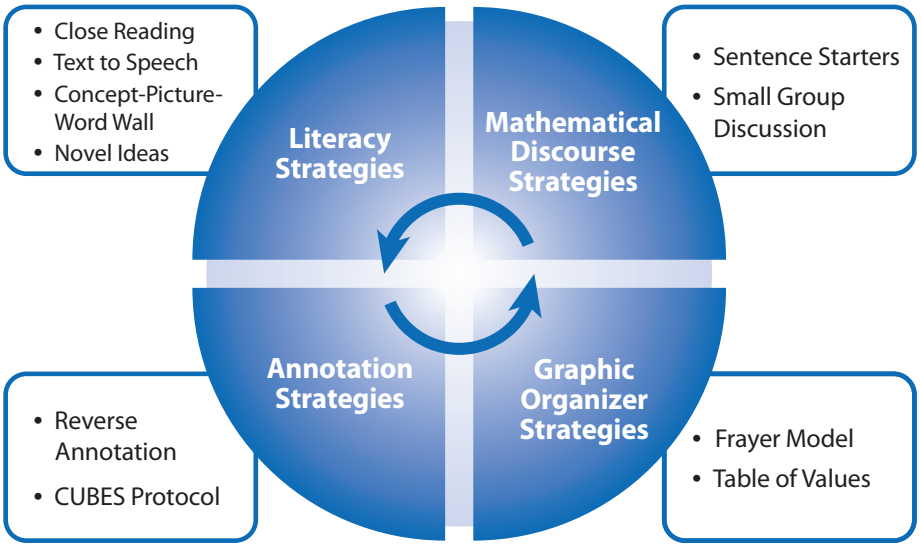
Introduction

The increased focus on literacy in math instruction can help some students navigate mathematical contexts, but for struggling readers, it can further complicate calculations. English language learners struggle to master difficult mathematical concepts while simultaneously processing a new language. Students with learning and behavioral disabilities struggle with the math concepts in their own contexts. This is where teachers and the strategies they select for their classrooms become essential.

The strategies presented here can help all students succeed in math, literacy, school, and, ultimately, in life. These instructional strategies provide teachers with a wide range of instructional support to aid English as a Second Language (ESL) students, students with disabilities (SWD), and struggling readers. These strategies provide support for the Mathematics Standards and the Standards of Mathematical Practice (SMP), English Language Development (ELD) Standards, English Language Arts Standards, and WIDA English Language Development Standards.

Within each lesson throughout this course, you will find suggested instructional strategies. These instructional strategies are research-based strategies and best practices that work well for all students.

The instructional strategies detailed here fall into four main categories: Literacy, Mathematical Discourse, Annotation, and Graphic Organizers. These strategies provide teachers with research-based strategies to address the needs of all students.

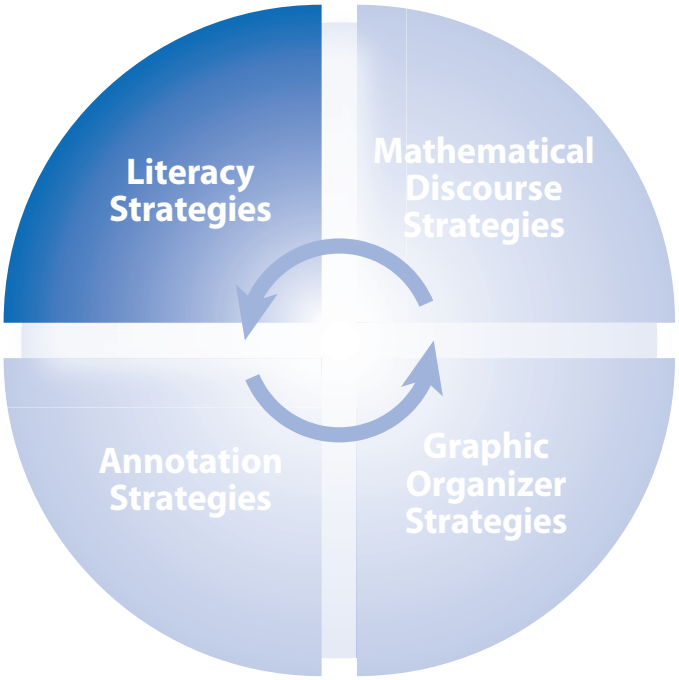


Source

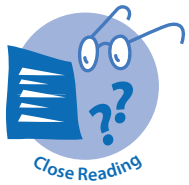
- WIDA: https://www.wida.us/standards/eld.aspx

Understanding the Language of Mathematics: Literacy

Mathematics has its own language consisting of words, notations, formulas, and visuals. In education, the language of mathematics is often regarded solely in the context of word problems and articles. This neglects the vocabulary and other mathematical representations students must be able to interpret. The strategies presented here help students navigate the language of mathematics so that they can understand text and feel confident speaking in and listening to mathematical discussions. For students with disabilities, the stress on repetition and different representations in this approach is essential to their ability to grasp the math concepts. For ESL students, repetition and different representations can strip out some of the English language barriers to understanding the language of mathematics, as well as provide multiple means of accessing the content. Literacy strategies include Close Reading, Text-to-Speech, Concept-Picture-Word Walls, and Novel Ideas.



Literacy Strategies



Close Reading with Guiding Questions

What is Close Reading with Guiding Questions?

Close Reading with Guiding Questions is a process that allows students to preview mathematical reading and problems by answering questions related to the text in advance and reviewing their responses during and/or after reading. Multiple reading protocols can be used in conjunction with guiding questions to enhance their effectiveness.

How do you implement Close Reading with Guiding Questions in the classroom?

When utilizing a textbook, task, or article in a math class, literacy struggles are often a strong barrier to entry into the mathematical ideas. Asking students to answer accessible questions before and/or as they read can lead them to the key information.

Prior to implementation, the teacher should determine the most important information students need to obtain from a text, whether it is a math problem to solve, a task to complete, or an informational lesson or article to read. Then, the teacher should come up with some questions to guide students before they read. These questions can:

- assess and relate prior knowledge
- define key vocabulary words
- discuss non-mathematical concepts in the text

The teacher should also prepare some questions to guide students as they read. These questions can:

- point out key concepts within the text
- relate the text and concepts to future learning
- assist students in identifying key facts in the text
- highlight the importance of text features (graphics, headings, etc.) in the text

To ensure the questions are accessible for students and to encourage reflection and debate after reading, many of these questions should be designed as either "True/False" or "Always True/Sometimes True/Never True." Students can represent their reasoning for their answer in writing, numbers, or graphic/pictorial representations. Students should complete the guiding questions and reading individually, with discussion to follow.

After students complete the reading, they should be given some time to individually evaluate their initial answers. Then, in partners or in groups, they can discuss their answers and come to final conclusions that will help them find the important information initially identified by the teacher. After deciphering the text through close reading, students will be able to complete the given activity.

When would I use Close Reading with Guiding Questions in the classroom?

Close Reading with Guiding Questions can be used for any activity in which literacy could be a barrier to learning or demonstrating mastery of mathematical concepts. The number of questions and length of the discussions can be altered based on the length, importance, and difficulty of the text and concept. As students become more accustomed to mathematical literacy, the text complexity can be increased, but the adherence to close reading strategies must be maintained to ensure students can access the mathematical concepts. The length of time spent on the literacy aspect can be shortened as students become more skilled, but the questioning and discussions must occur to ensure students are properly interpreting the text in the mathematical context.

How can I use Close Reading with Guiding Questions with students needing additional support?

For struggling readers, including ESLs, Close Reading with Guiding Questions can help make an intimidating lesson, word problem, or task much more accessible. Questions focusing more on Tier 2 and Tier 3 vocabulary, text features, and real-world concepts can help struggling readers relate to the text and learn how to decipher the text in context. Discussions around the questions will help students grasp the math concepts.

Allowing struggling readers to explain their answers using words, numbers, or graphics/pictures ensures that they can express their opinion and rationale despite a potential lack of vocabulary. Through these representations and the ensuing discussion, students will begin to learn the necessary vocabulary to be successful.

What other standards does Close Reading with Guiding Questions address?

Standards of Mathematical Practice:

- SSMP.1
- SSMP.6

WIDA English Language Development Standards:

- ELD Standard 3

Language Arts Standards:

- ELA–LITERACY.WHST.9–10.4
- ELA–LITERACY.WHST.9–10.9
- ELA–LITERACY.SL.9–10.4
- ELA–LITERACY.RST.9–10.3
- ELA–LITERACY.RST.9–10.4
- ELA–LITERACY.RST.9–10.7

Sources

- Anne Adams, Jerine Pegg, and Melissa Case. "Anticipation Guides: Reading for Mathematics Understanding."

  https://www.nctm.org/Publications/mathematics-teacher/2015/Vol108/Issue7/Anticipation-Guides-Reading-for-Mathematics-Understanding/

- Diane Staehr Fenner and Sydney Snyder. "Creating Text Dependent Questions for ELLs: Examples for 6th to 8th Grade."

  http://www.colorincolorado.org/blog/creating-text-dependent-questions-ells-examples-6th-8th-grade-part-3

Literacy Strategies

Text-to-Speech Technology

What is Text-to-Speech Technology?

Text-to-Speech Technology is an adaptive technology that reads text aloud from a text source for students. It is usually accessed through an application or program on a computer, smartphone, or tablet. Some new programs utilize Mathematical Markup Language (MathML) to read mathematical notation in a common, understandable manner for students. Many programs also highlight the words and notation on the screen as the audio plays, which helps students relate the written representation to the words they hear. The use of Text-to-Speech Technology allows students who struggle with literacy to hear the words and notation and access the text in a different way.

How do you implement Text-to-Speech Technology?

A classroom community focused on everyone's learning and a growth mindset is the first step in implementing Text-to-Speech Technology. One of the main barriers to implementation is encouraging students to use the program. Once they do, they will realize how the audio can help them understand the difficult mathematical texts and interpret the math content within them. After students realize the benefits of Text-to-Speech Technology, it can become part of the regular routine for group and independent work.

The use of headphones can be very important for effective use of Text-to-Speech Technology. Students can use the technology to listen to lessons and texts at their own pace. Extra noise from other students working or other students listening at different paces can confuse students attempting to use Text-to-Speech Technology, and headphones can help mitigate these distractions. Many teachers are nervous about the potential disruption headphones can cause in class. However, well-managed use of headphones can help students successfully utilize the technology to learn.

When would I use Text-to-Speech Technology in the classroom?

Text-to-Speech Technology can be used at any time throughout the year, and if the program speaks in MathML, it can be used with any lesson. Without MathML, effective use could be limited to word problems without unusual notation. For example, if x^2 is read as "x-two" instead of "x-squared" or "x to the second power," that could confuse students more.

During a lesson or small group discussion, Text-to-Speech Technology could detract from students' ability to listen, question, and process information. However, during warm-ups, independent work, or assessments, Text-to-Speech Technology can help students process the information and access the activity. It can become a routine for students to automatically listen to the question, problem, or directions first, and then attempt the activity.

How can I use Text-to-Speech Technology with students needing additional support?

Text-to-Speech Technology is an important adaptation and accommodation for struggling readers. Students who have read-aloud accommodations sometimes don't receive them because they are either embarrassed to accept them or because of staffing restrictions. These students can use Text-to-Speech Technology to supplement their math instruction by having text automatically read to them in a manner in which they can process it.

Additionally, for ESL students, hearing the English mathematical language, especially referring to mathematical representations and notation, can help put English words to the ideas they see. Some Text-to-Speech Technology can translate written and mathematical text into other languages, so students can hear the text in their natural language and see the English highlighted on the screen as they hear it. In this way, students are learning English vocabulary as well as learning the mathematical content in a language they can understand.

What other standards does Text-to-Speech Technology address?

Standards of Mathematical Practice:

- SMP.1
- SMP.6

WIDA English Language Development Standards:

- ELD Standard 3

Language Arts Standards:

- ELA–LITERACY.WHST.9–10.4
- ELA–LITERACY.WHST.9–10.9
- ELA–LITERACY.SL.9–10.4
- ELA–LITERACY.RST.9–10.3
- ELA–LITERACY.RST.9–10.4
- ELA–LITERACY.RST.9–10.7

Source

- Steve Noble. "Using Mathematics eText in the Classroom: What the Research Tells Us."
  http://scholarworks.csun.edu/bitstream/handle/10211.3/133379/JTPD201412-p108-118.pdf;sequence=1

Literacy Strategies

Concept-Picture-Word Wall

What is a Concept-Picture-Word Wall?

A Concept-Picture-Word Wall is a classroom display, often a bulletin board or a set of posters, that exposes students to important vocabulary words they will use in math class.

Posting vocabulary words in class helps reinforce the words students will see in textbooks, videos, websites, and test questions on math concepts. These Tier 3 vocabulary words are often not used in everyday language, and the exposure to the words visually through Concept-Picture-Word Walls can help students connect them to the math content.

How do you implement Concept-Picture-Word Walls in the classroom?

Just seeing the vocabulary on a Concept-Picture-Word Wall by itself will help students; more importantly, referring to the words as the teacher uses them in class helps students connect the visual to the application. A simple gesture to the wall makes a very explicit reference to the word as it is used and allows students to connect the unfamiliar word to its meaning in context. Additionally, students can be taught to refer to the wall as they use the words in class, and they can be asked to make sure they say at least 3 words from the wall during each class period in small-group discourse or as answers to whole-class questions. The comfort gained from using these Tier 3 words will help students to use appropriate math vocabulary while solving problems and will help students connect concepts more explicitly.

Postings on the Concept-Picture-Word Wall can be arranged strategically to connect concepts, units of study, or groups of words where appropriate. Having three sections of the Concept-Picture-Word Wall—for example, an “In the Future” section, a “Live in the Present” section, and a “Remember the Past” section——can help students see and remember the vocabulary throughout the entire course. Even without regular use of some words, just seeing the words before a unit can help instill a familiarity with the vocabulary. Leaving the words on the Concept-Picture-Word Wall after a unit is taught can help students connect “old” concepts to the current lesson and ensure that students still have access to the vocabulary.

When would I use Concept-Picture-Word Walls in the classroom?

Concept-Picture-Word Walls can be used for the entire year. The actual words might have to change, or at least be moved to different areas of the Concept-Picture-Word wall. The more exposure students have to the words, the more familiar and comfortable they will become. The constant exposure to the math context is beneficial for students throughout the entire course, especially for words with multiple meanings (bias, tangent, etc.) that could exist as Tier 2 words in everyday conversation but are Tier 3 words in the math classroom.

How can I use Concept-Picture-Word Walls with students needing additional support?

For all students learning mathematics, knowing and using the math vocabulary is often a major barrier. This is a problem especially for ESL students, who are learning the English language along with math content. If teachers try to simplify the words too much for students, it does them a disservice as they seek out information from other teachers, textbooks, and online sources that use the proper vocabulary. Most tests, especially state tests, will expect students to have knowledge of the Tier 3, math-specific vocabulary. The more students see these words, the more familiarity they will have when they apply them.

Concept-Picture-Word Walls can also be written in multiple languages. Especially for students who are on-grade-level in their native language, a multi-lingual Concept-Picture-Word Wall can help students connect the content they already know in another language to the English vocabulary necessary for success on English-language math activities and tests.

This website can help you get started on an English-Spanish Concept-Picture-Word Wall: http://math2.org/math/spanish/eng-spa.htm

What other standards do Concept-Picture-Word Walls address?

Standards of Mathematical Practice:

- SMP.1
- SMP.6

WIDA English Language Development Standards:

- ELD Standard 3

Language Arts Standards:

- ELA–LITERACY.WHST.9–10.4
- ELA–LITERACY.WHST.9–10.9
- ELA–LITERACY.SL.9–10.4
- ELA–LITERACY.RST.9–10.3
- ELA–LITERACY.RST.9–10.4
- ELA–LITERACY.RST.9–10.7

Source

- Janis M. Harmon, Karen D. Wood, Wanda B. Hedrick, Jean Vintinner, and Terri Willeford. "Interactive Word Walls: More Than Just Reading the Writing on the Walls."

  http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/cdownload;jsessionid=A250AF8A870B13B40B2934BA515FEC9?doi=10.1.1.690.6740&rep=rep1&type=pdf

Literacy Strategies

Novel Ideas

What is Novel Ideas?

Novel Ideas is a classroom activity that explores students' understanding of important Tier 2 vocabulary words they will use in math class. Instead of asking students to look up vocabulary words in the dictionary, Novel Ideas allows students to have conversations with their peers about vocabulary words in class. This reinforces the mathematical vocabulary students will see in textbooks, videos, websites, and test questions. These Tier 2 vocabulary words are often used in everyday language, but have specific meaning in mathematics. Exposure to the words through Novel Ideas can help students connect them to the math content.

How do you implement Novel Ideas in the classroom?

While building a rich representation of math content words and connecting the words to other words and concepts has inherent merit, it is more important to consider that pre-teaching the words before they are used in class helps students connect to the application. The understanding gained from discussing these Tier 2 words will help students apply them in a mathematical context to solve problems and connect concepts.

Here is a step-by-step process for implementing Novel Ideas:

1. Students separate into groups of four.
2. Students copy the teacher generated prompt/sentence starters and number their papers 1–8.
3. One student offers an idea, another echoes it, and all write it down.
4. After three minutes, students draw a line under the last item in the list.
5. All students stand, and the teacher calls one student from a group to read the group's list.
6. The student starts by reading the prompt/sentence starters, "We think a _____ called _____ may be about ... ," and then adds whatever ideas the team has agreed on.
7. The rest of the class must pay attention because after the first group has presented all their ideas, the teacher asks them to sit down and calls on a student from another team to add that team's "novel ideas only." Ideas that have already been presented cannot be repeated.
8. As teams complete their turns and sit down, each seated student should record novel ideas from other groups below the line that marks the end of his or her team's ideas.

When would I use Novel Ideas in the classroom?

Novel Ideas can be used for the entire year. The more students are exposed to mathematical vocabulary, the more familiar and comfortable they become, leading to increased usage of these math terms in their conversation and writing. Using math vocabulary in context is beneficial for students throughout the entire course, especially for words with multiple meanings (bias, tangent, etc.) that could exist as Tier 2 words in everyday conversation but are Tier 3 words in the math classroom.

How can I use Novel Ideas with students needing additional support?

Most tests, especially state tests, will expect students to have knowledge of the Tier 3, math-specific vocabulary. The more students use these words in conversation, the more familiarity they will have when they apply them. Understanding Tier 2 words also helps students avoid misconceptions in mathematics. Twice a week before the start of a lesson, allow students to use sentence starters in small groups that include all students. Prepare the sentence starter "When I hear the word _____, I think about _____" to share out with whole class. This will allow students who know the vocabulary words to share their knowledge, and will allow other students to hear the meaning of the vocabulary words. This strategy is particularly helpful for ESL students.

What other standards does Novel Ideas address?

Standards of Mathematical Practice:

- SMP.1
- SMP.6

WIDA English Language Development Standards:

- ELD Standard 3

Language Arts Standards:

- ELA–LITERACY.WHST.9–10.4
- ELA–LITERACY.WHST.9–10.9
- ELA–LITERACY.SL.9–10.4
- ELA–LITERACY.RST.9–10.3
- ELA–LITERACY.RST.9–10.4
- ELA–LITERACY.RST.9–10.7

Sources

- Colorín Colorado. "Selecting Vocabulary Words to Teach English Language Learners."

  http://www.colorincolorado.org/article/selecting-vocabulary-words-teach-english-language-learners

- Elsa Billings and Peggy Mueller, WestEd. "Quality Student Interactions: Why Are They Crucial to Language Learning and How Can We Support Them?"

  http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/programs/bilingual-ed/quality_student_interactions-2.pdf

Novel Ideas Sentence Starters

Slope

- When I hear the word climb, I think about ...
- When I hear the word steep, I think about ...

Volume

- When I hear the word filling, I think about ...

Equations

- When I hear the word balance, I think about ...
- When I hear the word equal, I think about ...

Graphing

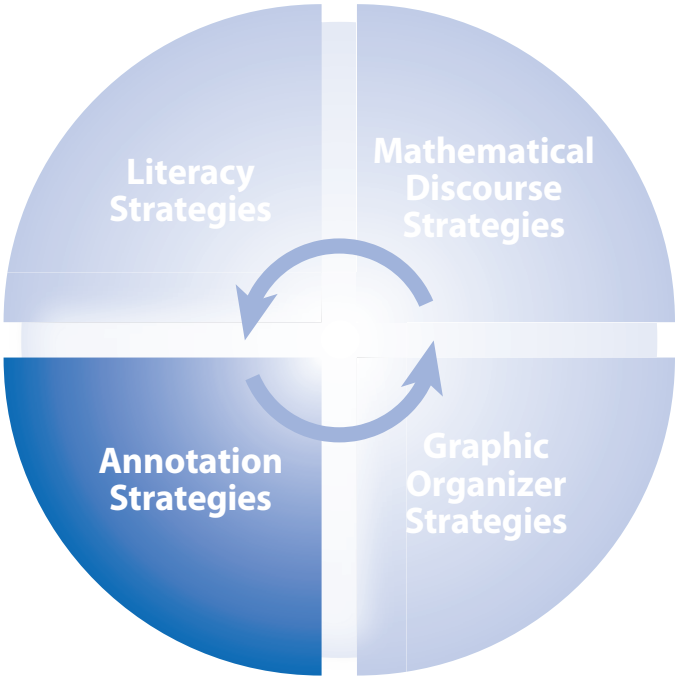
- When I hear the word grid, I think about ...
- When I hear the word graph, I think about ...

Scatter Plots

- When I hear the word scattered, I think about ...

Understanding Mathematical Content: Annotation

Understanding mathematical content is an extremely important skill, both in the math classroom and in life. When students read word problems, articles, charts, graphs, equations, tables, or other forms of mathematical text, they must be able to decode and extract meaning from the text. Annotation can help. The strategies presented here help students identify and focus on key characteristics and facts from various forms of text while ignoring the non-essential information. For students with disabilities, many of whom struggle with the distractions inherent in many high-school level texts, making notes and drawing pictures to explain a problem can help them focus. ESL students will be pointed to certain Tier 3 vocabulary words and determine which Tier 2 vocabulary words they must learn to be proficient in math class and in the English language. Annotation strategies include Reverse Annotation and CUBES protocol.



Annotation Strategies

Reverse Annotation Protocol

What is Reverse Annotation?

Reverse Annotation is a strategy that asks students to identify and write down key information from math problems. This is especially helpful for problems given on a computer or tablet, where students can't annotate directly on the problem. A template is given at the end of this section.

How do you implement Reverse Annotation in the classroom?

Many annotation strategies ask students to write, underline, or mark directly on the text of a problem. While those forms of annotation are also beneficial, they are not always possible with technology. Whether the problem is given on paper or using technology, having students write the answers to these questions will ensure that they are thinking strategically and specifically about the strategies and information needed to solve the problem.

The three questions at the top of the Reverse Annotation template are the key to understanding mathematical problems. For every problem given in class, ask students:

1. What is the problem asking us to solve?
2. What key words tell us the mathematical steps we need to perform?
3. What information in the problem can help us figure it out?

After answering the initial questions, students should make a guess, or estimate, of what they think the answer will be. This helps grow their number sense, and provides an initial, reasonable solution to guide their work. Students can then use the strategies they selected to solve the problem and evaluate their solution using the questions at the bottom of the template.

When students first begin to use Reverse Annotation, the teacher should walk them through the steps individually to ensure they can accurately identify the question, key words, and important information. Teachers can also lead students through the estimation process, making a game out of which student has the closest estimate.

Work through each step individually for several "easy" problems first, so that difficult math doesn't interfere with the process. Increase the problem difficulty incrementally as students begin to master the process. This may seem like a long process at first, but the ultimate result is worth the time investment.

When would I use Reverse Annotation in the classroom?

Reverse Annotation can be used to solve any math problem, and is especially helpful for word problems. When Reverse Annotation is initially implemented, the steps should be discussed in detail. As students become accustomed to Reverse Annotation and begin thinking about problems in this manner automatically, the individual steps become less important and can be scaffolded out to

improve efficiency. Students should reach the point where they immediately ask themselves the three initial questions when they first see a problem. However, the teacher should ensure that students are truly evaluating all the key information before routine discussions of the individual steps are removed.

How can I use Reverse Annotation with students needing additional support?

Annotation strategies can help students identify key information, even when certain vocabulary words are not known. As teachers introduce the content-specific Tier 3 vocabulary to their classes, annotation strategies such as reverse annotation can help students use these words to apply appropriate strategies while problem solving. Answering the three initial questions can help students organize the key facts and vocabulary, and the identification of key information can simplify the problem. This strategy is especially beneficial for ESL students.

Using reverse annotation with graphic organizers benefits ESL students by removing a lot of the confusing wording and allowing them to focus on the important pieces of a problem. When using Reverse Annotation, all students, including ESL students, will begin to think about problem solving in a way that encourages them to use the appropriate information to find a solution.

What other standards does the Reverse Annotation Protocol address?

Standards of Mathematical Practice:

- SMP.1
- SMP.2
- SMP.5
- SMP.6

WIDA English Language Development Standards:

- ELD Standard 3

Language Arts Standards:

- ELA–LITERACY.WHST.9–10.4
- ELA–LITERACY.SL.9–10.4
- ELA–LITERACY.SL.9–10.3
- ELA–LITERACY.SL.9–10.2
- ELA–LITERACY.RST.9–10.4

Source

- Alliance for Excellent Education. “Six Key Strategies for Teachers of English Language Learners.” https://uteach.utexas.edu/sites/default/files/files/SixKeyStrategiesELL.pdf

Reverse Annotation Template

Name: _____ Problem/Assignment: _____

Analyze the Problem

What is the problem asking us to solve?	
What key words will tell us the mathematical steps we need to perform?	
What information in the problem can help us figure it out?	

Initial estimate of solution:

Work Space

Remember to box in your solution!

Name: _____ Problem/Assignment: _____

Check It Over

How close was your estimate?	
Does your answer make sense? Is it reasonable? How do you know?	
Did you perform the calculations correctly?	
What does your answer mean in context?	

Annotation Strategies

CUBES Protocol

What is the annotation strategy CUBES?

CUBES is an annotation strategy in which students use different written designs to highlight the key aspects of word problems. It can help them choose the correct mathematical strategy to solve the problem accurately.

How do you implement CUBES in the classroom?

The steps for CUBES are:

1. **C**: **C**ircle all the key numbers.
2. **U**: **U**nderline the question.
3. **B**: **B**ox in the key words that will determine the operation(s) necessary and write the mathematical symbol for the operation(s).
4. **E**: **E**valuate the information given to determine the strategy needed. **E**liminate any unnecessary information.
5. **S**: **S**olve the problem, **s**how your work, and check your answer.

As students learn to use CUBES, walk them through the steps individually to ensure they can accurately identify the key numbers, question, key words, unnecessary information, and strategy. Work through each step individually for several "easy" problems first, so that difficult math doesn't interfere with the process. Increase the problem difficulty incrementally as students begin to master the process. This may seem like a long process at first, but the ultimate result is worth the time investment.

A graphic organizer can help students master the process, especially when problems are given on a computer or tablet where students can't always annotate directly on the problem. Students can write down the key numbers and circle them, write down the question and underline it, and so on. This will encourage students to truly think about the different pieces of the problem they are identifying, and how these pieces will guide the strategy and affect the solution.

When would I use CUBES in the classroom?

CUBES can be used to solve any math problem, and is especially helpful for word problems. When CUBES is initially implemented, the steps should be discussed in detail. As students become accustomed to using CUBES and begin thinking about problems in this manner automatically, the individual steps become less important and can be scaffolded out to improve efficiency. However, the teacher should ensure that students are truly evaluating all the key information before routine discussions of the individual steps are removed.

How can I use CUBES with students needing additional support?

Design features can help students identify key words and features, even when certain vocabulary words are not known. As teachers introduce the content-specific Tier 3 vocabulary to their classes, annotation strategies such as CUBES can help students use these words to apply appropriate strategies while problem solving. Using circles, underlines, and boxes can help students organize the key facts and vocabulary, and the elimination of unnecessary information can simplify the problem. This strategy is especially beneficial for ESL students.

Combining CUBES with graphic organizers also benefits ESL students by removing a lot of the confusing wording and allowing them to focus on the important facts of a problem. When using CUBES with a graphic organizer, all students, including ESL students, will begin to think about problem solving in a way that helps encourage them to use the appropriate information to find a solution.

What other standards does the CUBES Protocol address?

Standards of Mathematical Practice:

- SMP.1
- SMP.2
- SMP.5
- SMP.6

WIDA English Language Development Standards:

- ELD Standard 3

Language Arts Standards:

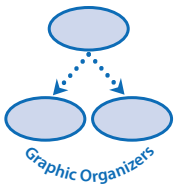
- ELA–LITERACY.WHST.9–10.4
- ELA–LITERACY.SL.9–10.4
- ELA–LITERACY.SL.9–10.3
- ELA–LITERACY.SL.9–10.2
- ELA–LITERACY.RST.9–10.4

Source

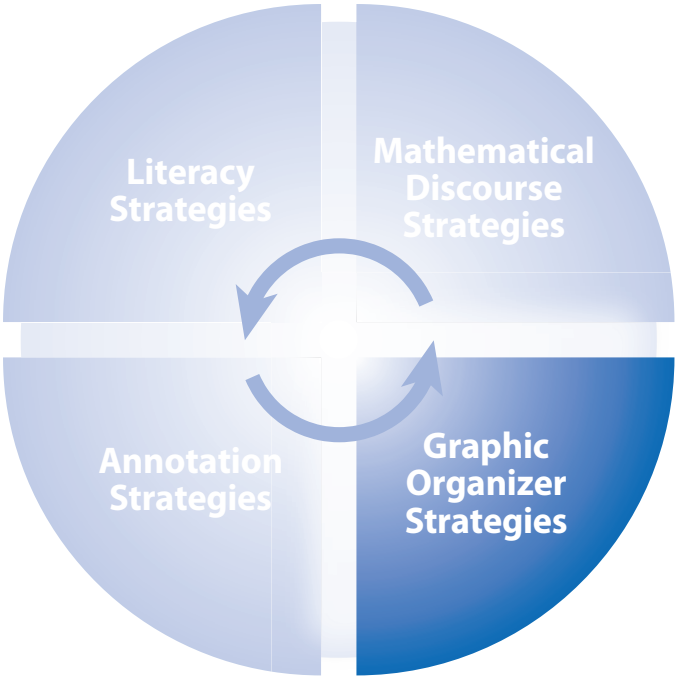
- Margaret Tibbett. “Comparing the effectiveness of two verbal problem solving strategies: Solve It! and CUBES.”

  https://rdw.rowan.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2633&context=etd

Organizing Mathematical Content: Graphic Organizers



Organizing mathematical content is a crucial skill for problem solving, exploring other possible methods for finding solutions, and managing math content. All students need strategies for organizing content to build conceptual understanding. For students with disabilities, visual representations and graphic organizers can help them clarify their thoughts and focus on the math. ESL students also benefit from visual representations and graphic organizers. Organizing mathematical knowledge with visuals can help ESL students navigate math content while learning the language. Graphic organizers include Frayer Models and Tables of Values.



Graphic Organizers

Frayer Models

What is a Frayer Model?

A Frayer Model is a graphic organizer that can help students understand new vocabulary words and concepts by exploring their characteristics. A Frayer model lists the definition of a word or concept, describes some key facts, and gives examples and non-examples. Examples and non-examples can come from a mathematical or real-world context.

How do you implement Frayer Models in the classroom?

Students can learn to create Frayer Models the first week of school, and the process can be used throughout the year each time students experience a new word or concept.

While it is important for teachers to give students precise mathematical definitions with appropriate content vocabulary, it is maybe more important for students to understand the application of mathematical words and concepts in their own context. As students learn new information, small group discussions and think-pair-share activities are great ways for students to formulate their own definitions, review the characteristics and facts they have learned, and discuss examples and non-examples.

Discussions of the examples and non-examples can help lead to the mathematical definition. For example, if students use a Frayer Model to define a quadratic function, they would notice that all examples have a highest exponent of 2, and all non-examples would not have a highest exponent of 2. All examples would have parabolic graphs, and all non-examples would have other graphs. Through these comparisons, students will understand the definition of quadratics using different representations, and they will be able to apply it in different contexts.

When would I use Frayer Models in the classroom?

Frayer Models can be used at different points during instruction. They are appropriate as introductions to new concepts, summaries to ensure understanding of new concepts, or as note-organizers throughout the lesson for students to fill in as they learn new concepts. At first, students might need help figuring out how to list and differentiate between the definition, facts and characteristics, examples, and non-examples. As students adapt to the process, they will be able to categorize information on their own or in small groups. As they compare newer Frayer Models to previous models, they will also be able to see how concepts build upon each other.

How can I use Frayer Models with students needing additional support?

Frayer Models can be a point of reference for students as they progress throughout the year. As students determine their own definitions for math-specific words and concepts, and use the examples and non-examples to determine the key facts, they will be able to put them in their own context and apply them to solve complicated problems. As math concepts build upon each other both within a unit and throughout the year, the use of Frayer Models to remind students of their initial definitions of words or concepts can help solidify their understanding. Using Frayer Models as part of a Word Wall or Concept Wall, or having a consistent notebook process to reference past Frayer models, can help consistently reinforce learning.

What other standards do Frayer Models address?

Standards of Mathematical Practice:

- SMP.1
- SMP.2
- SMP.6

WIDA English Language Development Standards:

- ELD Standard 3

Language Arts Standards:

- ELA–LITERACY.WHST.9–10.4
- ELA–LITERACY.WHST.9–10.1
- ELA–LITERACY.SL.9–10.1
- ELA–LITERACY.SL.9–10.4
- ELA–LITERACY.RST.9–10.3
- ELA–LITERACY.RST.9–10.4

Source

- Deborah K. Reed. “Building Vocabulary and Conceptual Knowledge Using the Frayer Model.” https://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/module/sec-rdng/cresource/q2/p07/

Frayer Model

Definition	Characteristics
WORD	
Examples from Life	Non-Examples

Graphic Organizers

Tables of Values

What is a Table of Values?

A Table of Values is an organized way to list numbers that represent different categories of values. These values can be represented as ordered pairs, graphs, word problems, or lists. Tables can help students see and compare values in a different way.

How do you implement Tables of Values in the classroom?

Tables can be used throughout the year to support various mathematical standards. Some standards mention tables specifically, and in others, tables can be an effective support to help students organize and understand the meaning and application of values.

Tables can be set up with numerical values in rows or columns. The key to understanding the values lies in the headings. The headings must be specific enough to show students the meaning and/or application of the numerical values, but not so wordy that they interfere with the clarity of the numbers in the table. For example:

x **(year)**	***y*** **(population in millions)**
1960	219
1970	230
1980	258
1990	312
2000	342

Mean (statistical average)	50	45
Median (middle value)	52	43
Quartile 1 (median of the lower 50%)	40	38
Quartile 3 (median of the upper 50%)	72	80
Range (difference of max and min values)	80	61
Interquartile Range (difference of quartiles)	32	42
Standard Deviation (measure of spread of data)	7.24	10.23

When would I use Tables of Values in the classroom?

Various mathematical topics can be represented by tables. For example:

- An (x, y) table of values to represent coordinates on a graph or independent and dependent variables for a given context
- A table to represent coefficients and/or constants in an equation
- A table to show different statistical measures when comparing sets of data
- A table to compare output values for the same input given different functions

Each time numbers or values are being listed, compared, or graphed, a table can help students differentiate between the values. Tables are easy to create, and students can be encouraged to create them as another representation to clarify and compare numbers for nearly any topic.

How can I use Tables of Values with students needing additional support?

Tables of Values can help students focus on numerical values and their meaning in context without distraction. They clarify what each number represents, what numbers can be compared, and what ordered pairs can be graphed to give a visual representation. Additionally, headings can be used to either highlight the relevant facts from a context or to describe mathematical vocabulary.

In general, graphic organizers benefit students by removing much of the confusing wording and focusing on the important facts and numbers of a problem.

What other standards do Tables of Values address?

Standards of Mathematical Practice:

- SMP.1
- SMP.2
- SMP.6

WIDA English Language Development Standards:

- ELD Standard 3

Language Arts Standards:

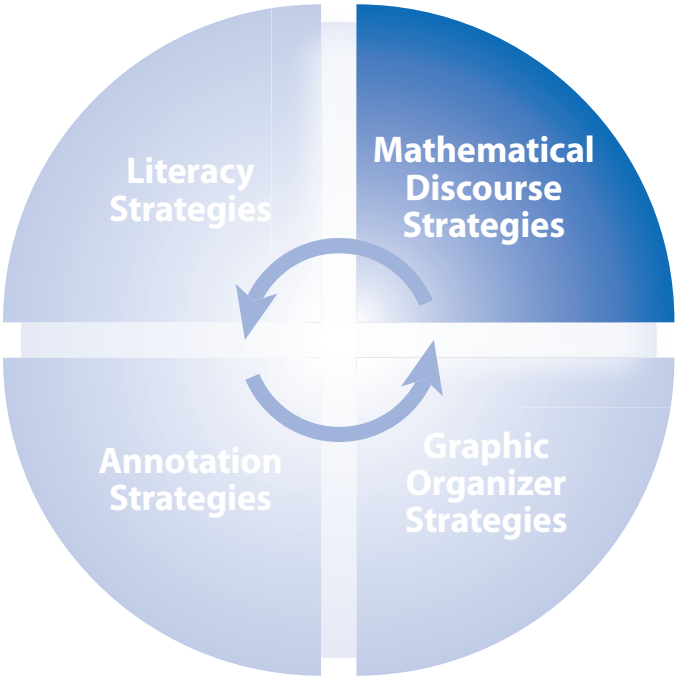
- ELA–LITERACY.WHST.9–10.4
- ELA–LITERACY.WHST.9–10.1
- ELA–LITERACY.SL.9–10.1
- ELA–LITERACY.SL.9–10.4
- ELA–LITERACY.RST.9–10.3
- ELA–LITERACY.RST.9–10.4

Source

- Alliance for Excellent Education. “Six Key Strategies for Teachers of English Language Learners.” https://uteach.utexas.edu/sites/default/files/files/SixKeyStrategiesELL.pdf

Communicating Mathematical Content: Mathematical Discourse

Reading, writing, speaking, and listening are all important ways to learn and express information, but the last two ways are often slighted in the math classroom. The mathematical discourse strategies presented here promote speaking and listening in a math-focused literacy context. Working these strategies into the daily routine of a classroom can help students become comfortable speaking and listening in a mathematical context, which will help them become comfortable with the mathematical content. Routines and structures are essential to support students with disabilities, as they often benefit from following a routine. This can lead to developing capability in their mathematical skills. These strategies also remove the barrier to entry for many ESL students, as structure and routine can help them focus on the math content rather than English language deficiencies. Mathematical Discourse strategies include Sentence Starters and Small Group Discussion.



Mathematical Discourse Strategies

Sentence Starters

What is a Sentence Starter?

A Sentence Starter is a common phrase or mathematical sentence frame that can help students begin and sustain academic conversations around mathematical content. It helps guide students through the discussion and bring out pertinent ideas that can lead to greater understanding.

How do you implement Sentence Starters in the classroom?

Many people view math class as a place to calculate solutions to math problems. However, to ensure the conceptual understanding and proper application of a math concept, students need to be able to explain the concepts and reasoning behind a solution to a problem. As many students are not accustomed to having academic conversations about math, sentence starters can help begin and continue these conversations in a productive manner.

There are two main types of sentence starters for mathematical discussions: discourse starters and math starters. For example, a poster with these or other sentence starters can be displayed from the beginning of the year, and the expectation can be set that any answer to a question or comment in a discussion should be framed using one of these starters. As students become accustomed to framing mathematical conversations in this way, they can expand on the given sentence starters and create some of their own. They will begin to realize how these statements ensure that their conversations revolve around math, enhance understanding of the concept, and force them not only to state, but also to explain their thinking. They will gain confidence from the ability to engage, as the first step has already been taken for them.

When would I use Sentence Starters in the classroom?

Sentence Starters can be used throughout the entire school year with any concept. However, they are most important to use at the beginning of the school year to build a mathematical community in the classroom centered on a comfort with mathematical discourse. Especially at the beginning of the year, students should be encouraged to use these sentence starters for every math statement. Appropriate settings include during small group discussion, while responding to whole class questions, and when writing explanations for problem solutions.

Modifications can be introduced so that students must use certain mathematical vocabulary within the sentences, or must use certain sentence starters at different points in conversations or for different conversation types and situations. However the starters are implemented, it is important for students to realize that these are intended to enhance and focus their conversations, not limit them.

How can I use Sentence Starters with students needing additional support?

Often, students are reluctant to talk about math concepts because they either lack confidence in their knowledge, are afraid to be "wrong," or don't know how to start or continue the conversation. Sentence starters can help students overcome this reluctance. The non-threatening, easy-to-interpret sentence starters remove the barrier to entry for students who don't know how to engage, and the respectful, mathematical focus promoted by sentence starters can help build confidence and provide a structure so that students will not fear being wrong.

For ESL students specifically, sentence starters can provide the English language support to help students engage with and discuss the math. The support of sentence structure removes language barriers to entry for students who don't fully understand English sentence structure.

Discourse Starters	Math Starters
I agree/disagree with ... because ...	My answer was ... because ...
I understand/don't understand ...	The next step is ... because ...
First/Next/Finally I ... because ...	I used (insert formula/equation/concept) because ...
I noticed that ...	
I wonder ...	My answer is right/reasonable because ...

What other standards do Sentence Starters address?

WIDA English Language Development Standards

- ELD Standard 3

Standards of Mathematical Practice:

- SMP.1
- SMP.3
- SMP.6

Language Arts Standards:

- ELA–LITERACY.WHST.9–10.4
- ELA–LITERACY.WHST.9–10.1
- ELA–LITERACY.SL.9–10.1
- ELA–LITERACY.SL.9–10.4
- ELA–LITERACY.RST.9–10.3
- ELA–LITERACY.RST.9–10.4

Source

- AVID. "Sentence Starters."
  https://sweetwaterschools.instructure.com/files/29100523/download?download_frd=1&verifier=CBvje9CPNKUe6IkN4TPBJDuXmZY3464aTTK1Fk2r math sentence starters research

Mathematical Discourse Strategies

Small Group Discussion

What is Small Group Discussion?

Small Group Discussion is a structured way for students to verbalize their mathematical thinking in a comfortable setting to solve a problem, build conceptual understanding, or summarize a concept.

How do you implement Small Group Discussion?

Small Group Discussion in math class depends on a trusting relationship between the teacher and the students. From there, students can build trusting relationships among themselves. Once this trust has been built, students will feel free to explore mathematical topics in groups, take risks, and engage in a productive struggle toward understanding or a solution.

Once these relationships have been established, certain structures should be established for Small Group Discussion to be effective. Discussion norms can be set by the class to ensure discussions are respectful and productive, and discussions should have predetermined time limits. The group composition is also important and should be based on instructional measures. For different activities, homogeneous groups, heterogeneous groups, or groups based on specific data by standard could be appropriate. Students should always be aware that the groups were chosen to maximize their learning.

Another structure that can be effective for Small Group Discussion is assigning group roles. These roles can include group leader, note taker, timekeeper, resource manager, culture keeper, or other roles determined to be appropriate for the classroom context. During the discussion, assigning each student a letter within the group (A, B, C, D, etc.) can help structure the discussion. Different roles can specify certain time limits for talk, which sentence starters to use, or other structured aspects of the discussion.

When implementing a Small Group Discussion, the question or task should inspire students to think in different ways about a concept. Through the structured format of the discussion, students will compare their ideas and arrive at an answer or explanation of the concept. Within the trusting framework of the class and group, students can focus on the common goal of the discussion and develop their thinking around the math concept. These rich discussions will enhance their understanding.

When would I use Small Group Discussion in the classroom?

Small Group Discussion can be used for nearly any topic, and it can be used at a variety of times in the classroom. The questions and tasks may need to change depending on when it is used. Opening activities for lessons can be Small Group Discussions where students explore properties of new math concepts or review/build upon their prior learning. Turn and talks throughout the lesson can be structured as Small Group Discussions if a consistent framework is in place. At the end of class, a Small Group Discussion can be used to come to a common understanding about an essential question from the lesson.

Depending on when the Small Group Discussion is used in class, and what the goal of the discussion is, the discussion reporting may vary. For a warm-up, each group might be asked to share their thinking. For a guided practice, recording answers on chart paper and a gallery walk could be appropriate. For a closing activity, individual written responses to a question could be appropriate.

How can I use Small Group Discussion with students needing additional support?

As discussed in other Mathematical Discourse strategies, struggling students are reluctant to talk about math concepts because they lack confidence in their knowledge and don't always have the needed vocabulary in their toolbox. Structured discussions with effective grouping can help students through these barriers. After a trusting and respectful classroom environment has been established, struggling students often feel more comfortable sharing their ideas with just a few classmates rather than the whole class. Additionally, adding structure can help students engage by providing the expectation that they participate in the process.

The intentional grouping of students can also help them succeed using Small Group Discussion. At times, heterogeneous groups could be appropriate so that stronger students can help struggling students, and at other times, homogeneous groups could be appropriate so the teacher can work with an entire group of struggling students. ESL students can be grouped with other students with the same dominant language to help remove the language barrier from the conversation.

What other standards does Small Group Discussion address?

WIDA English Language Development Standards:

- ELD Standard 3

Standards of Mathematical Practice:

- SMP.1
- SMP.3
- SMP.6

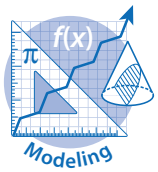
Language Arts Standards:

- ELA–LITERACY.WHST.9–10.4
- ELA–LITERACY.WHST.9–10.1
- ELA–LITERACY.SL.9–10.1
- ELA–LITERACY.SL.9–10.4
- ELA–LITERACY.RST.9–10.3
- ELA–LITERACY.RST.9–10.4

Source

- Jessie C. Store. "Developing Mathematical Practices: Small Group Discussions."
  https://kb.osu.edu/dspace/bitstream/handle/1811/78055/OJSM_69_Spring2014_12.pdf

Modeling Strategies



Mathematical Modeling

What is Mathematical Modeling?

Mathematical modeling is generally understood as the process of applying mathematics to a real-world problem with a view of understanding the connection. According to the CCSSM, mathematical modeling is the ability to apply concepts learned in class to real-world applications and to use the model to analyze a situation, draw conclusions, and make predictions.

How do you implement Mathematical Modeling in the classroom?

Modeling can be implemented by demonstrating how to make or generate mathematical representations or models, how to validate them, and how to use them to solve real-world problems. There are many ways to show understanding in a math classroom, such as using words, drawings or sketches, physical models, computer programs, or math formulas.

The following is a list of questions and answers suggested in order to create a mathematical modeling classroom environment:

- **Why?** What are we looking for? Identify the need for the model.
- **Find?** What do we want to know? List the data we are seeking.
- **Given?** What do we know? Identify the available relevant data.
- **Assume?** What can we assume? Identify the circumstances that apply.
- **How?** How should we look at this model? Identify the parameters.
- **Predict?** What will our model predict? Identify the equations that will be used, the calculations that will be made, and the answers that will result.
- **Valid?** Are the predictions valid? Identify tests that can be made to validate the model; i.e., is it consistent with its principles and assumptions?
- **Verified?** Are the predictions good? Identify tests that can be made to verify the model; i.e., is it useful in terms of the initial reason it was done? *(inspired by Carson and Cobelli, 2001)*

Teachers should expect these questions to recur often during the modeling process, and should regard this list as a fairly general approach to ways of thinking about mathematical modeling.

In a classroom where mathematical modeling is the expectation, teachers will need to establish that students are responsible for coming up with methods for solving the problems presented and that the teacher will only assist and facilitate.

When would I use Mathematical Modeling in the classroom?

It should come as no surprise that many students find mathematics boring. The most common question posed to any mathematics teacher is "When will I ever need to use this?" Often teachers fail to find problems in which students are interested or to even take student interest into account when planning a lesson. Problems that spark students' interest and curiosity will increase their attention and desire to learn. These types of real-world problems provide students an opportunity to think and respond as a mathematician. Students should be exposed to rigorous learning tasks that allow opportunities for mathematical modeling in the classroom.

How can I use Mathematical Modeling with struggling students?

When struggling readers, which includes ELLs and students with learning disabilities, are exposed to rigorous math learning tasks, there must be a level of scaffolding that includes coaching and guided questions that help to make a word problem or learning task much more accessible. Teachers should come up with questions to guide the students before and during the engagement of the task. Teachers should also:

- assess prior knowledge;
- define Tier 2 and 3 vocabulary words;
- discuss non-mathematical concepts in the task; and
- assist students in identifying key concepts and facts within the tasks.

Allowing struggling readers to explain their answers using words, numbers, or graphics/pictures ensures that they can express their opinion and rationale despite a potential lack of vocabulary. Through these representations and the ensuing discussion, students will begin to learn the necessary math concepts to be successful.

What other standards does Mathematical Modeling address?

WIDA English Language Development Standards:

- ELD Standard 3

Standards of Mathematical Practice:

- SMP.1
- SMP.2
- SMP.4
- SMP.5

English Language Development for Mathematics:

- ELD–A.9–12: Explain (Interpretive)
- ELD–MA.9–12: Explain (Expressive)

English Language Arts standards:

- ELA–LITERACY.SL.9–10.2
- ELA–LITERACY.SL.9–10.4
- ELA–LITERACY.RST.9–10.3
- ELA–LITERACY.RST.9–10.4
- ELA–LITERACY.RST.9–10.7
- ELA–LITERACY.WHST.9–10.4
- ELA–LITERACY.WHST.9–10.9

Sources

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