

Literacy Class Defintions

Critical Literacy is not only the ability to read what is written, but also who wrote it and why...Literacy is mostly understanding what is being written, but critical literacy means to think for yourself, even if you are reading someone else's words.

Reading is a lot more than just looking at words on a page. Reading is discerning the meaning of things. It is also about understanding the world around you. As Giroux states, "to be able to name one's experience is part of what it means to 'read' the world and to begin to understand the political nature of the limits and possibilities that make up the larger society" (7). Reading is **beyond the page**; we must connect the words to what they signify.

- Dave, Anna H., & Jacquelyn

Literacy is the ability to read and write while developing skills to gain knowledge and **enable people** to participate in the understanding and transformation of society through **social power**.

-Linda A.

Literacy has become the "vehicle through which to legitimate schooling as a site for **character development**...based on the virtues of hard work, industry, respect for family, institutional authority, and an unquestioning respect for the nation." As future teachers, we have to recognize this viewpoint when we are deciding what to teach in our classes.

-Dusti Waite

Illiteracy goes way **beyond just words**. We discussed signs in our world and how even those hold some sort of word because they are symbols that represent our language. Almost everything we come into contact with involves some sort of reading whether it be a symbol, body language, or even sign language.

-Fairon Bleam