



Friday Focus

CARTER COUNTY SCHOOLS

Volume 2, Issue 14

December 6, 2013

Calendar of Events:

Dec 12 Curriculum Club 3:30

Jan 12 4-6 Academy

Dec 19—Jan 2 Christmas Break

Feb 7 ACTC Science Fair

Inside this Issue:

[Writing and Reading Relationships](#)

[10 Activities to Connect Reading and Writing](#)

[Integrating Reading and Writing](#)

[25 Fun Activities to Connect Reading and Writing](#)

[Key Ingredient to Successful Reading/Writing Lessons](#)



The Reading/Writing Connection

Research shows a strong correlation between reading and writing. Reading affects writing and writing affects reading. Research has found that when children read extensively they become better writers. Reading a variety of genres helps children learn text structures and language that they can then transfer to their own writing. In addition, reading provides young people with prior knowledge that they can use in their stories. One of the primary reasons that we read is to learn. Especially while we are still in school, a major portion of what we know comes from the texts we read. Since writing is the act of transmitting knowledge in print, we must have information to share before we can write it. Therefore reading plays a major role in writing.

At the same time, practice in writing helps children build their reading skills. This is especially true for younger children who are working to develop phonemic awareness and phonics skills. Phonemic awareness (the understanding that words are developed from sound “chunks”) develops as children read and write new words. Similarly, phonics skills or the ability to link sounds together to construct words are reinforced when children read and write the same words. For older children, practice in the process of writing their own texts helps them analyze the pieces that they read. They can apply their knowledge about the ways that they choose to use particular language, text structure or content to better understand a professional author’s construction of his or her text.

While it may seem like common sense to adults that reading and writing have a lot to do with each other, the connection is not always as apparent to young people. Teachers should explain how the two skills reinforce and strengthen each other. Young people (especially adolescents) often ask their parents and teachers, “Why do I have to learn this?” Here is a perfect opportunity to show the relationship between two essential academic and life skills.



The Reading Writing Connection in Content Area Literacy Instruction

In the past, a great deal of research has focused on the importance of integrating reading and writing skills. Because of the Common Core standards, there is renewed attention on this subject. The standards emphasize using writing to demonstrate valid reasoning, clear explanations, and well-chosen details in response to readings. These literacy standards are woven into every area of study.

Here are some ideas for helping students connect these two important communication skills while promoting more thoughtful reading practices so as to improve comprehension. These strategies can be readily used for both informational texts and writing tasks in a variety of subject areas, helping teachers and students meet the requirements of the literacy standards in all content.

- **Write a personal response to a reading passage.** This could be a journal entry related to the reading or some type of post-reading activity that includes discussion questions in order to encourage critical thinking.
- **Take notes during or after reading the article.** Encourage your students to mark up the text by underlining key ideas, locating vocabulary in context, writing questions, or circling facts that interest them.
- **Prepare a summary of key ideas in the article.**
- **Analyze the reading by transferring information to a graphic organizer in order to highlight key ideas.**
- **Research evidence to prepare their own piece of writing after reading an article.**

When we take time to make these important reading and writing connections, we help our students become more thoughtful readers and writers. By providing these important literacy opportunities, teachers are preparing students with the ability to express their ideas more clearly while helping them develop the skills needed to become college and career ready.