

A Language and Literacy Framework for Literature and the Content Areas (K-8)

The three block framework, consisting of language and word study, reading workshop, and writing workshop, is a conceptual tool for organizing instruction. The framework is flexible, allowing numerous variations in content, student groupings, daily timeframes and the level of teacher-directed instruction.

The Three Blocks

Language and Word Study

Students explore the intricacies of language across multiple genres including literature, informational texts, and poetry. They investigate the meaning and structure of words, and the conventions and forms of written language.

Reading Workshop

Students read a variety of self-selected and teacher-selected texts for extended periods. They construct meaning and make personal and textual connections as they learn from and about reading. Students learn effective comprehending strategies they apply to fiction and nonfiction texts.

Writing Workshop

Students develop writing strategies and skills, learn about the writer's craft, and use writing as a tool for learning and communication. Writing for sustained periods, they explore different genres and formats for a range of purposes and for a variety of audiences.

Listed below are the elements of the three blocks of the framework at each level.

	Language/Word Study	Reading Workshop	Writing Workshop
K-2 Primary Level	<p><i>30-60 minutes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interactive Read Aloud • Interactive Writing • Modeled/Shared Reading • Modeled/Shared Writing • Handwriting • Phonics/Word Study/Spelling • Storytelling 	<p><i>45-90 minutes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guided Reading • Independent Literacy Work 	<p><i>45-60 minutes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent Writing • Guided Writing • Interactive Writing (small group)
2-6 Intermediate Level	<p><i>30-60 minutes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interactive Read Aloud • Current Events • Modeled/Shared Reading • Interactive Edit • Modeled/Shared Writing • Interactive Vocabulary • Readers'Theatre/Process Drama • Choral Reading • Handwriting • Test Reading & Writing • Word Study/Spelling • Poetry Sharing/Response 	<p><i>60 minutes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent Reading • Guided Reading • Literature Study 	<p><i>60 minutes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent Writing • Guided Writing • Investigations
6-8 Middle Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interactive Read Aloud • Interactive Vocabulary • Interactive Edit • Poetry Workshop • Current Events • Test Reading and Writing 	<p><i>50-60 minutes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent Reading • Literature Study (Book Clubs) • Guided Reading 	<p><i>50-60 minutes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent Writing • Guided Writing

Fountas, I. C. & Pinnell, G.S. (2006). *Teaching for Comprehending and Fluency K-8: Thinking, Talking, and Writing About Reading*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.

Fountas, I.C. & Pinnell, G.S. (2000). *Guiding Readers and Writers (Grades 3-6) Teaching Comprehension, Genre, and Content Literacy*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.