

Balanced Literacy Framework

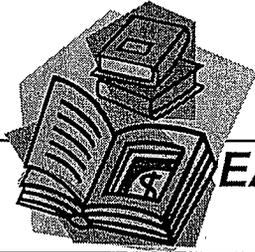
Balanced Literacy

Balanced Literacy is a research-based framework of classroom literacy instruction that provides a continuum of learning activities from teacher modeling through interactive and guided practice to independent student reading and writing. ***The 8 components of Balanced Literacy provide the framework for reading and writing instruction.***

- 1. Read Aloud** – Teacher reads a variety of texts aloud to students.
- 2. Shared Reading** – Using a text that all can see, teacher reads aloud to students and students “join in” the reading. (Big Books and Small Books, (Fiction/Non-Fiction) Charts, Poems, Songs, Nursery Rhymes, etc.)
- 3. Guided Reading:** Working in a small group (up to 6), students read a text matched to their particular need while the teacher “guides” the instruction of the text.
- 4. Independent Reading:** Based on teacher instruction, student chooses an appropriate text to read at their own rate for their own purpose (DEAR, during literacy centers, literature discussion groups, etc.).
- 5. Shared Writing:** Teacher scripts own ideas or ideas suggested by students while modeling appropriate writing instruction for example word choice/figurative language, voice, conventions, sentence/paragraph and organization (morning message, classroom rules and routines, notes/newsletters, etc.).
- 6. Interactive Writing:** Teacher scribes and shares the pen with students in writing classroom messages (language experience, notes, stories, etc.).
- 7. Writer’s Workshop** (mini-lessons and conferencing): Through the use of writing samples to identify student needs, teacher provides small/whole group instruction in the writing process. Student choice of topic is the basis of writing in writers’ workshop.
- 8. Independent Writing:** Based on teacher instruction student chooses an appropriate topic and writes at their own pace for their own purpose (centers in content areas, journals, responses, learning logs, etc).

Word Work (embedded throughout the 8 components of the balanced literacy continuum of instruction): Teachers provide appropriate daily instruction, through a variety of strategies (word walls, making words, spelling, month-by-month phonics, guess the covered word, etc.), designed to teach knowledge about words and word parts to develop proficient strategic readers.

The 8 Components of Balanced Literacy



	READING	LEVELS OF PRACTICE	WRITING
Student Control 	Independent Reading	Independent Practice <i>taught skills/strategies</i>	Independent Writing
Gradual Release	Guided Reading	Guided Practice <i>based on previously introduced skills</i>	Writing Workshop <i>Mini-lessons & conferences</i>
Teacher Control	Shared Reading <i>Sharing the text</i>	Interactive Practice	Interactive Writing <i>Sharing the pen</i>
	Read Aloud	Model Demonstrate	Shared Writing <i>Modeled writing</i>