

In your writing groups, think about the article you are assigned and discuss 2 things:

1) What is this text's main argument?

2) How does this text define literacy? Is this implicit or explicit?

After you discuss, please have one person type your response below.

Group 1- "Socrates' Nightmare" and "Is Google Making Us Stupid?"

1) Socrates is afraid that people will take texts at face value and not investigate further.

2) Being able to read something and think beyond it. Explicit.

1) The internet is causing us to read and think for ourselves less than we used to.

2) Being able to adapt your way of thinking. Implicit.

Group 2- "Shirky, Gin, and the Cognitive Surplus"

1) The article is about how the industrial revolution transformed society and how people should take advantage of the opportunities of cognitive surpluses and deploy it in more engaging ways.

2) Literacy is being able to interact with and contribute to the text. This text explicitly describes literacy as being able to cognitively understand and analyze the meaning of the content being read instead of taking it for face value.

Group 3- "Brave New World of Digital Intimacy" and "Laws that Choke Creativity" (TED talk)

Brave New World of Digital Intimacy:

1. social media revolutionized the way we interact with each other. From having to Facebook stalk different profiles to being able to read snippets from the News Feed the way we read, write, and interact with each other has been changed.

2. Literacy is being able to read short cut details about your friends. The News Feed allows the normal person to quickly gather information of their friends and family without taking too much time out of their day.

Laws that Choke Creativity:

1. Patent laws inhibit creativity, every time a person uses copyrighted material, even in a completely different form and product, their idea is struck down by copyright laws

2. This text defines literacy as being able to develop ideas from other people's work and turn them in to your own.

Group 4- "Writing in the 21st Century"

Literacy is communication in a variety of methods. Reading and writing on paper is no longer the only component. Being able to understand and state ideas with regard to other people

incorporates the primary purpose of literacy. Previously Literacy has been defined as the sole ability to read and write. Today, literacy has taken on an entirely different mean as technology advances. Literacy today is more accurately defined as the ability to participate in and contribute to the existing knowledge base through both physical and digital means.

Group 5- "From Pencils to Pixels"

This article is primarily about how all new literacy technologies from writing itself to word processors on computers all go through the same cycles. At first they are expensive and not widespread, then they become more widespread but they are viewed with skepticism because their "authenticity" has not been verified. Then once people accept the new technology and their fears have been put to rest they embrace the technology because the technology simply improves the old ways. And finally once it is fully embraced and trusted then the technology can do something new and create a new genre or type of literacy. Then another technology comes along and the cycle starts again. This article implicitly defines literacy as understanding and using the old forms of literacy while still being able to adapt to new technologies and utilise them to do something new.