

Disciplinary Literacy in North Dakota Content Standards

Literacy and text are specialized across the disciplines. Each discipline has a unique way of using text to create, disseminate, and evaluate knowledge. Strategies employed by learners as they encounter disciplinary text come from the demands of the text and the purpose of the specific discipline.

The information below identifies some of the strategies for disciplinary literacy in various disciplines and aspects of the specific content standards within that discipline that refer to those strategies.

Health: Disciplinary Literacy in Health focuses on the following:

Reading	Writing	Thinking
• Read information objectively • Read for facts, then cause/effect, then application • Interpret the meaning of data, sketches, and charts • Determine the validity and quality of evidence and sources • Understand specialized vocabulary • Read for details and precise concept interpretation • Research new discoveries, findings, and treatments • Increase understanding of health-related challenges and perspectives • Research answers to health-related questions • Seek evidence to form theories	• Use precise wording and terminology • Compose phrases, bullets, graphs, or sketches • Seek exact information over craft • Distinguish facts from opinions • Communicate in a systematic, precise, and objective format	• Use personal interests to focus on learning • Seek connections and cause/effect relationships • Identify the need for more data • Consider new hypotheses or evidence • Contemplate the interplay of health-related factors • Apply new information to actions and decisions • Examine the science behind symptoms, feelings, and behaviors

The North Dakota Health Content Standards provide opportunities to address disciplinary literacy within the following categories:

- Explain core health concepts
- Analyze the influence of factors on healthy behaviors
- Access valid health information, products, and services
- Apply interpersonal communication skills
- Use decision-making skills
- Apply goal-setting skills
- Use health-specific knowledge and language to make informed decisions (self-management)
- Advocate for personal, family, and community health

References:

Lent, Releah. (2017, February) *Disciplinary Literacy: A Shift that Makes Sense*. ASCD Express. ASCD.

Lent, Releah. (2019) *Disciplinary Literacy in Action*: Corwin.

North Dakota Health Content Standards. (2026, July). Retrieved July 22, 2026, from [NDHealthStandards2026](#).