

Seneca Core Literacies- Definitions

We have identified 10 literacies, the Seneca Core Literacies (SCL) we believe are requisite for success as learners and graduates in the 21st century. These literacies reference, but are not identical to the essential employability skills identified by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. The Seneca Core Literacies will be demonstrated by every Seneca graduate. The Seneca Core Literacies are: written communication; oral communication; quantitative literacy; information literacy; creative thinking; ethical reasoning, personal and social responsibility; inquiry and analysis; critical thinking and problem solving; digital literacy; and intercultural knowledge and global perspective. We have examined the literature on literacies (essential skills, 21st century skills, etc.) and have provided a glossary of definitions with references to assist those planning and evaluating curriculum and learning experiences.

Written Communication - the development and expression of ideas in writing. It involves writing using proper English grammar, punctuation, syntax and sentence structure.

Oral Communication - the speaking and listening skills needed to participate verbally in discussions, exchange thoughts and information, make clear and convincing presentations, and interact with a variety of audiences.

Quantitative Literacy - knowledge of and confidence with basic mathematical/analytical concepts and operations required for problem-solving, decision-making, economic productivity and real-world applications.

Information Literacy: the ability to know when there is a need for information, to be able to identify, locate, evaluate, organize and effectively and responsibly use and share information to inform and solve problems.

Creative Thinking - exploring ideas, generating possibilities, looking for many right answers rather than just one.

Ethical Reasoning, Personal and Social Responsibility - are about respecting each other and the rights of others, and making informed choices that benefit other individuals, society as a whole and the environment. They require an individual to be dependable and accountable and to demonstrate self-discipline, persistence and motivation, while being sensitive and responsive to the well-being of others, and aware of the possible consequences of their actions.

Inquiry and Analysis- seeking and exploring issues by asking questions and breaking complex topics into parts to gain a better understanding of them in order to make informed conclusions or judgments.

Critical Thinking and Problem Solving – Critical thinking is the exploration and examination of issues, ideas, artifacts and events before accepting or forming an opinion, and making conclusions. Problem solving is the process of designing, evaluating and implementing a strategy to answer an open-ended question or achieve a desired goal.

Digital Literacy - the ability to locate, organize, understand, evaluate, share and create information using digital technology, community tools or networks.

Intercultural Knowledge and Global Perspective - the knowledge, attitudes and skills that support effective and appropriate interaction in a variety of cultural contexts in order to adapt to and build relationships with people from other cultures.