

IN THIS EDITION: HOW TO DEVELOP DISCIPLINARY LITERACY, HOW TO TEACH CAUSATION, HOW TO USE POWERPOINT TO CREATE WORKSHEETS, A RETRIEVAL PRACTICE IDEA & USEFUL DIGITAL TIPS YOU CAN USE TODAY.



## What is disciplinary literacy?

The [Education Endowment Foundation](#) reports that language and literacy provide us with the building blocks not only for academic success, but for fulfilling careers and rewarding lives. Its 2018 report identified [recommendations](#) to promote the value and importance of disciplinary literacy. In this short article, we will explore what disciplinary literacy might look like and how to develop a practical framework.

The emphasis on disciplinary literacy makes clear that every teacher needs to communicate their subject through academic language, and that reading, writing, speaking, and listening are at the heart of knowing and doing Science, Art, History, and every other subject in secondary school.

The EEF advises that one way to begin to embed a culture of disciplinary literacy is to audit existing literacy practices across the curriculum.



Planning changes or shifts in approach is a next step and departments could create subject specific literacy plans that address potential barriers to accessing the curriculum related to reading, writing, and communication.

Implementing the shift in priority could be carried out at the curriculum planning and development stage with teachers identifying the content or a skill to be learned and marrying this up with a literacy focus.

The EEF recommends that teachers in every subject provide explicit vocabulary instruction to help students access and use relevant academic language. There can be confusion for some students where a word is used across different disciplines and has different meanings.

***The EEF points to the use of the terms 'factors', 'value', 'area', 'mean', 'fraction', and 'improper' which in Maths have different meanings to other disciplines.***

One approach to help pupils' understanding of subject specific terminology is to consistently signpost synonyms and antonyms. Other strategies include providing simple definitions, the etymology & morphology of the terms, examples of the terms in use and non-examples.

Download [this template](#) to help you get started or develop what you already have in place.



## Approaches for teaching causation

Critical thinking is one of the most important skills a student can practise and develop at school.

This analytical skill could be taught and modelled by teachers so students have a framework or **mental model** they can apply to any academic or even personal situation where they need to analyse a scenario or make a judgement.

Imagine you are teaching a class about climate change, the Russian Civil War, genetic engineering, Brexit or the cost factors of production in an Economics class, you could use the model linked below to move your students from a basic **sorting** task, through to a **causation** flow activity, and then a higher order **judgement** process.

Download the guide [here](#) to model this critical thinking approach in your classroom.

FURTHER READING: [DISCIPLINARY LITERACY AND EXPLICIT VOCABULARY TEACHING](#) BY KATHERINE MORTIMORE (2020)





# Practical approaches

for teaching and learning



## A Retrieval Practice Tool

Retrieval practice is a strategy in which bringing information to mind enhances and boosts learning. Deliberately recalling information forces us to pull knowledge 'out' and examine what pupils know. This can be achieved using flashcards, multiple choice questions, or simply asking pupils what they can recall from a previous lesson. The retrieval practice worksheet linked below can support retrieval practice in any subject and at any level. It's based on the classic Bingo game, but pupils are encouraged to independently fill their grids with relevant disciplinary literacy, numbers, letters, formulas, characters, quotes, theorists, etc.

↓ DOWNLOAD

## Worksheets made simple

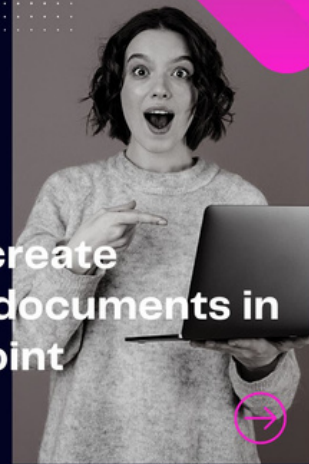
Making worksheets in Word can be a frustrating experience as aligning shapes and text can be tricky. PowerPoint can help to make this process much simpler.

When you use PowerPoint to create worksheets you have far greater flexibility when it comes to formatting. It's straightforward to make portrait orientated worksheets, just follow the step by step approach linked below.

↓ DOWNLOAD

HOW TO

## How to create portrait documents in PowerPoint



## Digital tips to save you time

Trying to find a word or name in a document or website? Press **Ctrl and F** and you will identify every time the word or name is mentioned, or if it is even included at all.

Need a timer to boost productivity for you or your pupils? Try the [Pomodoro timer](#).

Frustrated by exam boards removing older but useful past papers? Find them all here: [Xtreme Papers](#).

Offer calming music to aid concentration in class with seasonal [music for studying](#).

Looking to make your teaching and learning content more engaging? Try [Genially](#). You can make infographics, videos, animated presentations, quizzes and more.

