

More than Reading and Writing

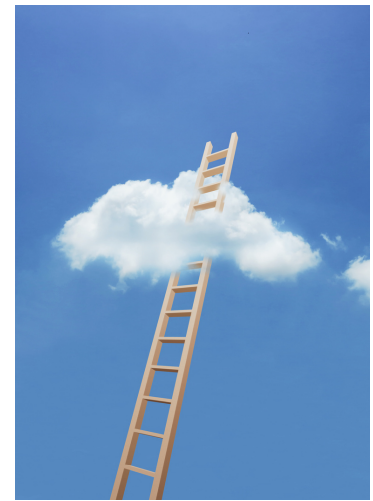
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What is literacy???

The GLC has been talking about literacy for years, but do you know what we mean when we use the word?

Our perspective is that literacy describes an action, and that action is learning. This is why we talk about lifelong learning, because “having literacy” means always being ready and motivated to learn something new.



You may have heard of digital literacy, health literacy, media literacy, etc. (and we hope you heard it from us!), but still most people associate literacy with the ability to read and write. This makes sense, because without the ability to communicate using those skills, everything else gets a lot more difficult. But, you can be very talented at reading and writing, and still struggle with using technology, sticking to a budget, or making healthy meals.

So what does literacy mean?

Communicating

- People use a lot of different ways to communicate - not just with words, but with art, numbers, cooking, telling stories, and so on
- People use communication to convince you of things - this is important when we think about what we consume for entertainment - news stories, headlines, ads, movies, television shows

Self-Expression

- Just like communication, you can use a variety of ways to express yourself - dictating voice to text, movement, clothing, building objects

Understand

- Sometimes, we don't exactly understand - this can be subtle and without us realizing what's happening (like in advertisements), or you miss something
- Asking for clarification and an explanation is always the best move, because if you don't understand, then you can't decide what to do next

Access

- Having the tools you need to connect with other people - a phone, paper and pen, etc.

Evaluate

- Being able to understand fully and evaluate or judge that communication is what leads you into action