

Exercise: Plan for a Literacy Block

Using the literacy block graphic in figure 7.2 to guide your thinking, facilitate a collaborative discussion about the current structures and literacy-learning experiences that occur within your school day. If your team does not have a consistent and dedicated block of time for literacy, imagine what yours might look like based on the information presented in this chapter so far. Use the worksheet in figure 7.1 (page 168) to direct your initial collaborative discussions.

Use the following questions to guide this exercise.

- What literacy structures and experiences are built into our current literacy block?
- How much time do we allot to whole-group, small-group, and independent learning?
- What refinements might we need to make to our current literacy block?
- Do we embed literacy instruction into other disciplines, such as science and social studies? Or do we facilitate interdisciplinary lessons or units that combine instruction of two or more content areas?
- When will our team meet to collaboratively plan and discuss upcoming lessons for the literacy block? On what regular schedule can we establish this meeting?