



# What is NCEA Literacy?

A guide for students

## What is NCEA Literacy?

Literacy in NCEA is being able to read and understand language in many forms: written texts in books or articles, textbooks with language and pictures, texts and images on websites, messages in social media, and so on.

It is also being able to write these different kinds of texts, using language in a way that the audience can understand, and that suits the purpose of the text you want to write.

Literacy is not just something you do in English at school, it's about being able to **understand and use language in many everyday situations**.

Literacy is important for everyone because it helps you to learn at school, for being out in the world and in your community, and for any work or further study you might choose to do.

**Here are some examples where you might use literacy:**



Figuring out whether you can trust health advice that you found online



Writing a CV for a part time job



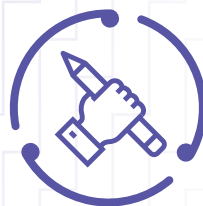
Reading books to your younger cousins or siblings



Reading a recipe and following the sequence of instructions



Understanding what customers want you to do (or make)



Writing song lyrics, speeches, and stories

## How will NCEA Literacy be assessed?

**FROM 2024, TO GAIN AN NCEA QUALIFICATION,  
YOU WILL NEED TO PASS TWO LITERACY STANDARDS:**

**US32403:**

Read written texts to  
understand ideas and  
information

**US32405:**

Write texts to  
communicate ideas and  
information

The standards will be assessed using a Common Assessment Activity (CAA). This is an online assessment that your teachers will organise for you. The reading and writing standards will each take you about an hour, but there are no time limits to the assessment.

You can sit the Literacy CAAs anytime from Year 9 onwards. This means you might sit the reading CAA in Year 9 and the writing CAA in year 11. Someone else might sit the reading CAA when they are in Year 12 and the writing CAA when they are in Year 10.

Your teachers will work with you and your whānau to decide when the best time is for you to sit this assessment.



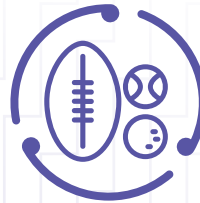
## How will my teachers help me pass the NCEA Literacy standards?

There is literacy in every subject you do. All of your teachers will create opportunities for you to practice your literacy skills in class, so you can better understand what the same skills look like in different subjects.

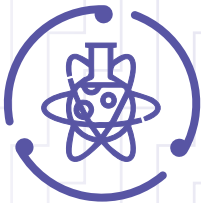
**Here are some examples of where literacy might be taught in different subjects:**



In Mathematics and Statistics, when you are making sense of word problems and explaining your answers.



In Health and PE, when you are reading and interpreting the rules of a game.



In Science, when you are writing a lab report in which you need to use formal and technical language.



In Social Studies, when you are selecting and researching a range of sources about a historical event.

## How are literacy and numeracy related?

Many activities at school (and in life) will need you to use literacy and numeracy at the same time. It is important that you are both literate and numerate so that you keep as many options open as possible. **You can find more information on [NCEA Numeracy here](#).**

