

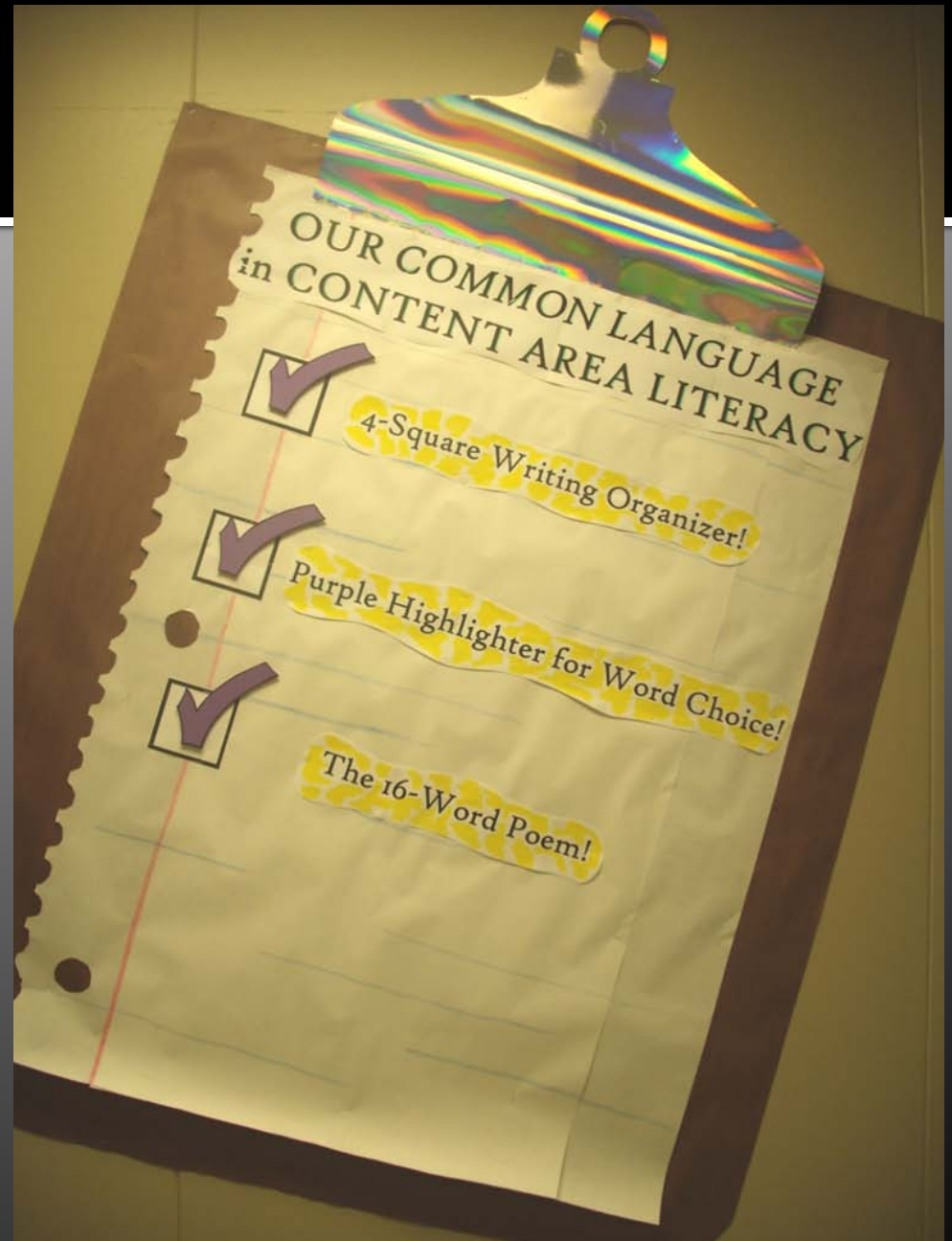
I am doing  
**THAT**  
in my class on  
Monday!



Strategies for Improving Content Area Literacy

Melanie Beaver, 7<sup>th</sup> grade Teacher  
Vigo County School Corporation, Terre Haute

# Our School's Common Language in Content Area Literacy



# The Purple Highlighter

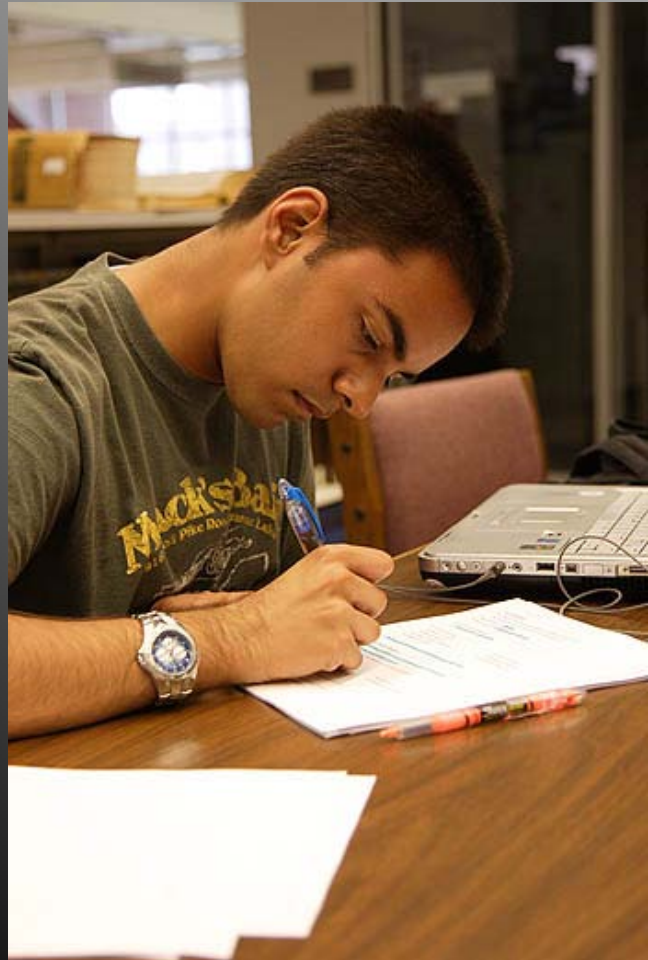
“Successful adolescent students in content area classrooms share a common characteristic:  
They have rich academic vocabularies!”

-Antonacci & O’Callaghan

Common  
language  
school wide  
for good *word*  
*choice*



# Writing Better Answers



Three magic words  
to show students are  
interacting with the material:

In the text...  
The author says...  
During the lab...  
In the problem...  
In the passage...

# 16-WORD POEMS

## LIFE:

So much  
Depends Upon

The next-to-last  
Poker hand

He played  
That night.

My father  
Loved Bluffing!



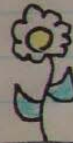
## SCIENCE:

So much  
Depends Upon

Pollinators visiting  
Tomato blossoms

In my  
Backyard garden.

Bugs help  
Make veggies



## HISTORY:

So much  
Depends upon

FDR's CCC  
At work,

Building for  
America's future.

Young men  
with jobs.



## MATH:

So much  
Depends upon

Non-terminating and  
Non-repeating decimals

Like  $\pi$   
or  $\sqrt{2}$ .

These are  
Irrational numbers.

IRRATIONAL NUMBERS

# 16-word Poem

A Creative  
Lesson Assessment  
inspired by this  
novel and Corbett  
Harrison on  
[writingfix.org](http://writingfix.org)

SHARON CREECH

WINNER OF THE NEWBERY MEDAL FOR *WALK TWO MOONS*

LOVE  
THAT  
DOG

a novel



# So Much Depends Upon...

So Much  
Depends Upon

Multiplying by  
Scale Factor

To Make  
A Model

Of Anything  
You Choose

So Much  
Depends Upon

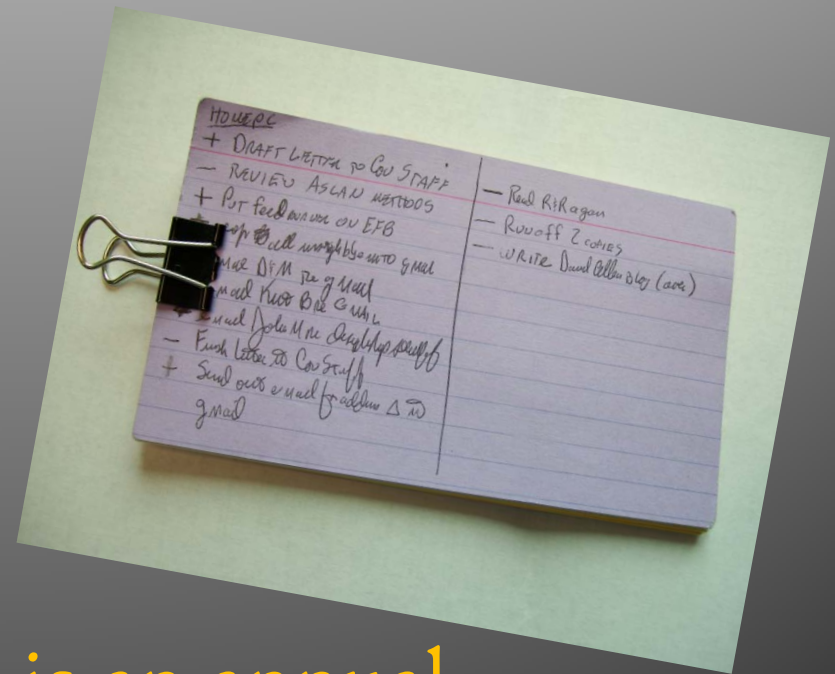
Safety in  
Dillion's Class

Come with  
All Ten

Leave with  
All Ten

# The 5 and 1 Assessment

Conference  
ISU  
Teachers  
Innovation  
Collaboration



*Sycamore Educators Day* is an annual conference for teachers and administrators to share, inspire, and learn.



# Roll the Dice



Roll an 8?

Write an 8  
word sentence  
about the most  
important thing.

Roll a 2 and a 6?

Write 2 key  
terms and a 6  
word sentence.

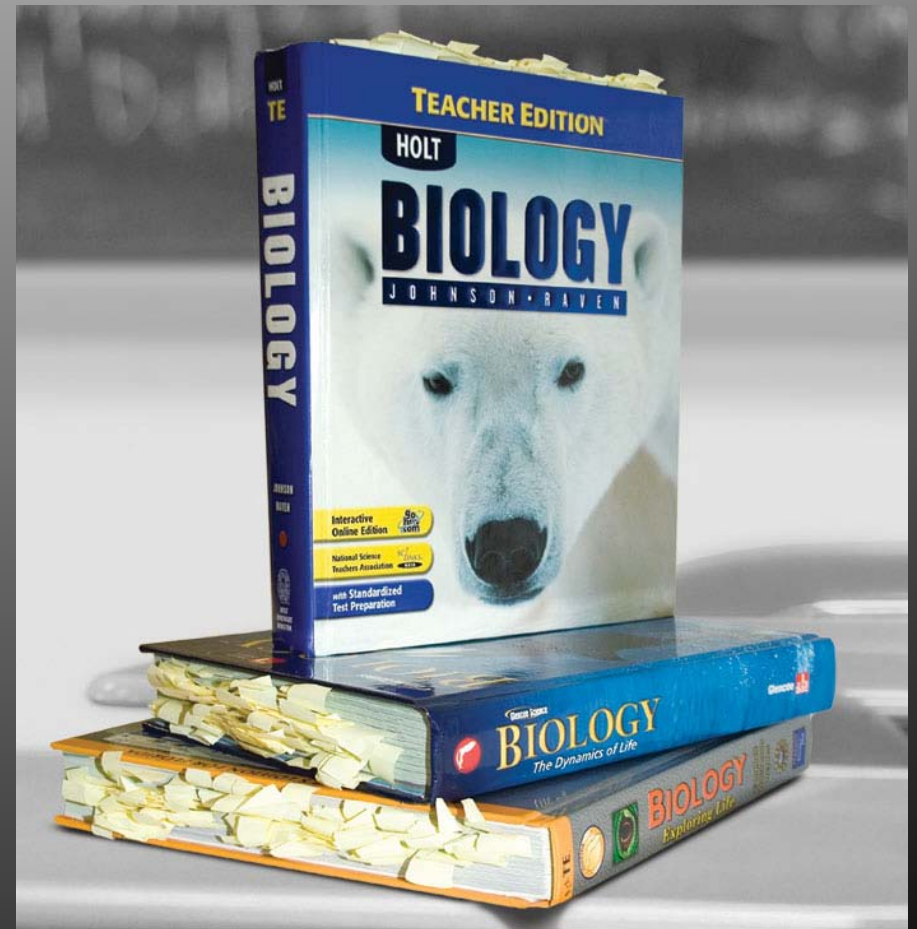


# Point-of-View Writing

- Identify a recently studied person or topic.  
(lifecycle of a chick, process of digestion, factors leading up to a war, integers or algorithms in a math word problem)
- Have students write from one perspective to another member of the process, problem, etc.
- Identify what you will (and won't) look for in each section.

# The Most Important Thing...

- BEFORE
- DURING
- AFTER



# Great Resources in Content Area Literacy



-[smekenseducation.org](http://smekenseducation.org)

-*Building Content Literacy: Strategies for the Adolescent Learner* by Sejnost & Thiese

-*Developing Content Area Literacy* by Antonacci & O'Callaghan