



READING IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

Disciplinary literacy is defined as the confluence of content knowledge, experiences and skills merged with the ability to read, write, listen, speak, think critically and perform in a way that is meaningful within the context of a given field.



READING CODE

Reading code is different from any other text you will read. It is packed with highly complex vocabulary terms, jargon and acronyms which need to be learned and understood before they can be read. Reading code is a key feature of Computer Science. When reading code, ask: does the code run? Does the code run correctly? Does the code run as intended on all possible test cases? How will specific changes affect the outcome?

- CODE
- RESEARCH PAPERS
- COMPUTING BOOKS
- TEXT BOOKS
- ARTICLES
- NEWS ARTICLES
- INSTRUCTIONS
- VIDEO TUTORIALS



DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

- Computer Science texts, articles, research papers and codes are typically concept and idea dense
- Acronyms are often used
- Every word and symbol matters
- Words, codes and symbols all have a specific meaning which isn't always clear (often reads like a different language)



DEMANDS AND STRATEGIES

- Intensive, slow reading and re-reading to analyse details
- Use a flowchart to visualise the direction the code is going and predict possible outcomes
- Identify all parts of code / text and their meaning
- Pay attention to detail and think sequentially
- Get more than just the 'gist'; read carefully and closely
- Create a working dictionary of topic-specific terminology and acronyms with their definitions
- Apply previously learned concepts and processes



STAYING CURRENT

Wider reading around Computer Science can enable students to gain a wider and deeper knowledge of the subject. New languages, protocols and innovations are happening all the time. Being a computer scientist means staying current:

- Use reading as a way to make connections and understand real world issues
- Summarise and synthesise ideas
- Read non-fiction critically, paying attention to the source and reliability.

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