

# Connecting Literacy to Learners' Lives

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## What we will cover today:

- Perspectives on literacy
- Authentic learning
- Why connect literacy to learners lives?
- Social and cultural influences



# Adult Learning Principles

Adults need learning that:

- Is self-directed
- Builds on their rich store of past experience and knowledge
- Helps them meet their own goals
- Is relevant
- Is practical
- Provides respect



# What reading and writing tasks do you do?

Think about tasks at:

- Home
- Work
- In the community (errands, social groups: book club, hockey parent, volunteer)

# Authentic Learning

Using real life situations to teach skills that are relevant to learners' needs

For example,

- Scheduling an appointment
- Reading a report card
- Following instructions for a new appliance





# Why connect classroom learning to learners' lives?

Literacy programs have the greatest impact when:

- Learning is built around authentic literacy practices
- Explicit instruction is provided
- Classroom learning connects to real life for practice



# Authentic Literacy Materials

any materials the learner would use in real life and are relevant to their learning needs

**Examples of authentic learning materials include:**

Recipe books

Work manual

Rental agreement



# Learner-Centred Guiding Questions

What's in it for me?

How is this going to help achieve my goal?

When can I try this out?

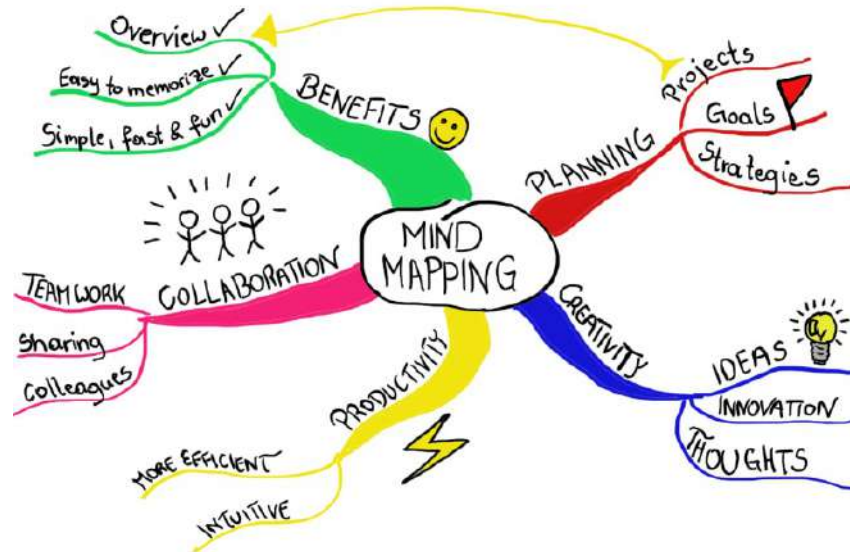
What do I already know about this? Will it help me?

Do I feel respected for who I am?





# Mind Mapping





# Social and Cultural Practices

Literacy practices are embedded in the social and cultural fabric we live and move within

- What is the environment?
- Who is involved? What are the nature of the relationships? Formal/Informal?
- What are the expectations of the people connected to the literacy practice?