

Reflecting and Revising Curriculum

In the chaos of competing priorities in Term 4, when are you sitting down with your curriculum overview and mapping out the 'journey' students will be taking with you? Set yourself up for a successful 2024 and beyond...



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	Term One	Term Two	Term Three	Term Four
Year 7	Diagnostics Reflective Unit (Zootopia) LT: Podcast	Persuasive Unit WT: Infographic ST: POV dialogues	Analytical Unit (Runner) WT: Analytical paragraph WT: Annotated narrative map	Creative Unit WT: Poetry Annotation WT: Poetry Folio ST: Poetry Performance
Year 8	Writing Unit Framework: Growing Up WT: Writing Journal WT: Published piece	Persuasive Unit WT: Annotated Text WT: Analytical paragraph ST: Stakeholder Hot Seats	Analytical Unit (Trash) WT: Detailed plan WT: Analytical paragraphs	Reflective Unit (City of Embers) WT: Personal response ST: Revision proposal
Year 9	Analytical Unit (10 Things I Hate About You) WT: Analytical essay ST: Class seminar	Writing Unit Framework: Fear WT: Writing Journal WT: Published piece	Persuasive Unit WT: Argument Analysis ST: Recorded Vlog	Genre Unit (Brontide) WT: Close analysis End-of-Year Exam
Year 10	Exploring Argument WT: Argument Analysis ST: Small Group Debates	Text in its contexts (Twelve Angry Men) WT: Personal response WT: Close analysis Mid-Year Exam	Crafting Texts Framework: Pressure WT: Writing journal WT: Published piece ST: Reflections	Voices to Country (Interrogation of Ashala Wolf) LT: Analytical paragraphs x3 ST: review End-of-Year Exam

A sample overview: taking VCE English & Literature into consideration in the scope & sequence of content & learning tasks.
LT = Learning task, WT = written task, ST = spoken task

Term 4 can be a confusing time, as we feel everything *should* slow down with the year coming to a close. Yet, the reality of term 4 is, by far, the most intense term of the entire year. While we are attempting to bring things together for the current cohort and prepare them for their next year level; we are revising, planning, and preparing for the new year ahead.

One of the things on any faculty leader's mind at this time of the year is to audit, reflect, and revise curriculum documentation. This normally begins in Term 3, when booklist decisions need time to be processed, and this is generally the time where schools will confirm their yearly overview.

There are many ways a curriculum overview can be presented but the priority is that you can easily see the *journey* a student will take from 7-12 (or F-6 or any collection of year levels relevant for your school).

You will want to consider curriculum overview documentation at not just the term or year level, but the accumulation learning throughout.

Audit checklist

- ✓ Do you have a balance of text types? (eg. to explore and to create)
- ✓ What is the time between one year and the next to consolidate skills? (eg. term 1 into term 4 is two years)
- ✓ What is the focus of your units? (eg. text-based 'Of Mice & Men Unit' or content/skill-based 'analytical unit')
- ✓ Are you letting Year 12 dictate your junior curriculum? (eg. for the VCE, the 2024 Y7s will be the last year to complete the current study design.)
- ✓ Does the curriculum allow and prioritise skill development, particularly at Year 7 and 8, or is it focused on task development?

There is no 'perfect' curriculum overview, but it is about balance. You need time, but you also do not want to bore students by studying a text for more than a term. (*I'd argue that a whole term is often too long! I know many people will contest they struggle to get through a novel properly even in a term - but I'd counter that if it is then you are missing the point of the unit*). You want to invest properly in getting your overview as strong as possible because this is the foundation of your whole course, so you want to get it as accurate as you possibly can.

“It is important, at the junior levels, to think about the *skill development*, rather than *task development*”

If you want to talk through your curriculum overview and get an outsider's perspective, feel welcome to reach out. I offer one-off online consultations where I can review and offer suggestions for curriculum overview documentation - simply email me at hayley@connectliteracy.com for more details.