

WICOR[®] (Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading)

is an instructional approach that places students at the center of their learning by empowering them to take ownership and agency of their thinking and learning. Each component includes strategies that engage both teachers and students. WICOR involves intentional instructional decision-making by teachers to provide students with opportunities to demonstrate what they know and what they can do with rigorous course content, which in turn builds skills and behaviors that support college and career readiness.

This instructional approach involves a scaffolded process of skill-building, that begins in elementary school. Students gradually develop autonomy and demonstration of mastery of content through their K–12 journey.

Teachers in all content areas can intentionally incorporate WICOR strategies into their daily lessons. WICOR strategies are effective in any instructional setting, including face-to-face, blended, and virtual learning.



Writing	Inquiry	Collaboration	Organization	Reading
<p>Writing is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A tool for communication, reflection, and learning • Inquiry • Visible organization of thought • Communication with authentic audiences 	<p>Inquiry is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uncovering one's understanding • Critical thinking and questioning • Exploring a variety of ways to solve problems • Engaging in thinking, learning, and discussion to inspire innovation 	<p>Collaboration is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive group interactions • Teamwork with shared responsibility • Sharing of ideas, information, and opinions 	<p>Organization is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing materials, time, and self • Practicing methodical study habits • Planning and prioritizing school, work, and social tasks • Engaging in goal-setting, planning, and reflection • Strategically and intentionally taking responsibility for one's own learning 	<p>Reading is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making connections between texts, self, and the world • Navigating and comprehending rigorous texts • Evaluating information from a variety of formats • Organizing and applying text-based learning
<p>Students who write:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage frequently, in every content area and classroom • Cite evidence to support their thinking • Deepen their understanding of content • Demonstrate command of academic vocabulary • Communicate as a content expert • Communicate their thinking competently and confidently 	<p>Students who inquire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze and synthesize materials or ideas • Clarify their own thinking • Probe others' thinking • Work through ambiguity • Solve authentic problems 	<p>Students who collaborate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a safe and supportive physical and philosophical environment • Work through identified structures and roles to achieve a common goal • Develop positive interdependence • Clearly communicate verbally and nonverbally • Listen effectively to decipher meaning • Deepen the learning of others through inquiry and active engagement 	<p>Students who organize:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-direct, self-evaluate, self-monitor, and self-advocate to reach academic goals • Develop and use tools to organize thinking, resources, and time • Develop and use processes, procedures, and tools to study effectively • Prepare for rigorous courses and engage fully in instruction 	<p>Students who read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activate, engage, and extend beyond the text • Make predictions and create visual images as they read • Understand text structures • Question the text and engage in deep inquiry • Become content experts • Evaluate sources for accuracy and bias
<p>AVID supports writing through blended learning experiences including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disciplinary literacy • Academic language and literacy scaffolds • Learning-through-writing strategies • The focused note-taking process • The writing process in every content area • Collaboration • Tutorials, Collaborative Study Groups, and Scholar Groups 	<p>AVID supports inquiry through blended learning experiences including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design thinking and problem-based learning • Computational thinking • Skilled questioning techniques • Costa's Levels of Thinking • Socratic Seminars • Tutorials, Collaborative Study Groups, and Scholar Groups 	<p>AVID supports collaboration through blended learning experiences including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic language and literacy scaffolds • Socratic Seminars • Philosophical Chairs • Jigsaw, World Café, Reciprocal Teaching, and Numbered Heads • Synchronous and asynchronous peer editing groups • Tutorials, Collaborative Study Groups, and Scholar Groups 	<p>AVID supports organization through blended learning experiences including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Binders, eBinders, calendars, planners, and agendas • The focused note-taking process • Graphic organizers • Project planning and SMART goal-setting • Tutorials, Collaborative Study Groups, and Scholar Groups 	<p>AVID supports reading through blended learning experiences including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disciplinary literacy • Academic language and literacy scaffolds • Culturally relevant texts • The critical reading process • The focused note-taking process • Vocabulary building • Summarizing • Tutorials, Collaborative Study Groups, and Scholar Groups