

## Four Domains of Language

### Include reading, writing, listening and speaking in every lesson

The English language consists of four domains: reading, writing, listening and speaking, which are constantly interacting with each other. Therefore, the task of learning English as a second language includes becoming proficient in all of them.

In order to maximize language learning for ELLs, we can view every content lesson as a language learning opportunity. As you plan the content of a lesson, think about how you can have students meaningfully reading, writing, listening, and speaking about the topic. This will increase content learning as well as providing needed language practice for English learners.

Some lessons or classroom activities are heavy in one or two of the language domains. Try to think creatively about how to add the missing language domain/s into any given lesson:

#### Examples:

- In a journal activity, invite students to **tell** someone what they plan to **write** about before actually writing. They may also get ideas from **listening** to their partner share.
- When having students brainstorm **orally**, give students the opportunity to **write** their ideas down first. This gives ELL students to time to generate ideas before the group discussion.
- Instead of telling students the instructions to an activity from a text (e.g., math lesson in Everyday Math), give students a chance to **read** the instructions first, then debrief them together. Or, instead of debriefing whole group, you could then have partners **rephrase** the directions to each other **orally** before starting the task.