WESTERLUND CONSULTING
MAKING LANGUAGE VISIBLE

Resources for Teaching with a Functional Approach



Dr. Ruslana Westerlund | Updated November 13, 2026

A curated reading pathway for educators and instructional leaders using systemic functional linguistics (SFL), WIDA, and disciplinary literacy.

FOUNDATIONAL CONCEPTS

Is Language Separate from Reading? | October 31, 2026

What Does It Mean to Make Language Visible? Part 2 | September 8, 2026

Language Is Not a Scaffold | February 13, 2026

An Invitation to Rethink Comprehensible Input | August 29, 2024

Is SFL Concerned with Automaticity? | August 28, 2026

PLANNING WITH THE WIDA STANDARDS

How to Create Language Goals with the WIDA Standards | September 25, 2024

Turning Language Charts from an Assessment to an Instructional Tool | November 2, 2025

GENRE, DISCIPLINARY LITERACY & MENTOR TEXTS

Making Language Visible in Social Studies

Making Language Visible in a Social Studies Classroom | September 7, 2024

The Genres of Aurora Borealis | October 11, 2024

Understanding Mentor Texts: Guiding Students in Literary Analysis | September 17, 2026

Teaching Writing in the Content Areas: Research and Practice

BUILDING MEANING: NOUN GROUPS, VERBS & EXPLANATIONS

Unlocking Noun Groups: Packing Meaning in One Phrase | September 8, 2025

Cross-Linguistic Meaning Making Through Noun Groups in Science | July 30, 2026

Teaching Students Definitions in the Context of Text | December 9, 2024

What I Want to Say About "Saying" Verbs | January 8, 2025

Moving Beyond Because and So: The Language of Causality | October 31, 2024

Choosing a Language Focus: Passive Voice in Sequential Explanations | March 10, 2025

COHESION, THEME–RHEME & TEXT FLOW

Cohesion: The Glue That Holds the Text Together | September 30, 2024

It's Not Magic or Pixie Dust! It's Grammar! | November 7, 2026

The Point of Departure: How Writers Guide Their Readers | July 17, 2026

Teaching Students How to Stay on Topic | October 5, 2025

Sequencing without Sequencing Words | September 1, 2025

Using Connectives to Argue with Clarity | September 2, 2025

Condensing Meanings Through Nominalization | May 24, 2025

Moving Beyond the Sentence Level | October 25, 2025

NARRATIVE, VOICE & EVALUATION

Read-Alouds With a Functional Approach | December 3, 2024

"Showing" and "Telling" in Narratives Through WIDA Language Features | July 3, 2026

Teaching Narrative Structure Through Place | September 20, 2026

Let the Sentence Run: Teaching Accumulation, Pacing, and Voice | September 20, 2026

Finding the Language of Perspective in Children's Books | January 28, 2025

Opening and Closing Doors for Other Voices: Teaching the Language of Rebuttals | March 30, 2025

Slaves or Workers: Teaching Students How to Read Critically | March 1, 2018