

## What is Literacy?

Literacy is the ability to develop and communicate understanding in a variety of ways, including speaking, listening, reading, writing and viewing.



## Supporting Literacy at Every Age

Even though high school is an important place for young adults to build literacy skills, families and community members have key roles to play. There are a number of simple, but important, ways to support the literacy growth of high school students.

[www.maine.gov/doe/literacy-for-me](http://www.maine.gov/doe/literacy-for-me)



## What is *Literacy for ME*?

*Literacy for ME* is a statewide effort led by the Maine Department of Education with involvement by community partners to help all Maine citizens develop strong literacy skills.

## How to Get Involved

**If you would like to be involved with *Literacy for ME*, here are some things you can do.**

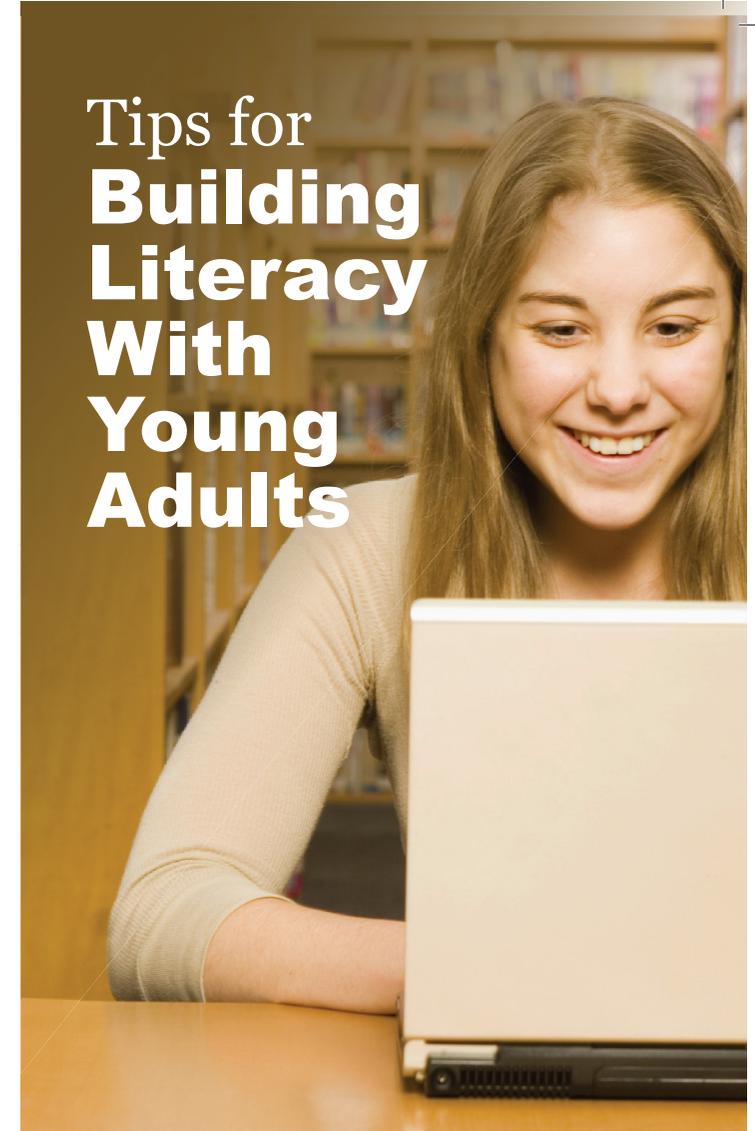
- Share this brochure with family and friends. Encourage them to support literacy as well.
- Visit the *Literacy for ME* website for more literacy resources - [www.maine.gov/doe/literacy-for-me](http://www.maine.gov/doe/literacy-for-me)
- Contact the Maine Department of Education for additional information at 207-624-6600.



## Contact Your Local Partner

Insert your local contact information here

## Tips for Building Literacy With Young Adults



Young Adults: Grade 9 to Grade 12



An Initiative of the Maine Department of Education  
[www.maine.gov/doe/literacy-for-me](http://www.maine.gov/doe/literacy-for-me)

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# Young Adults

Grade 9–Grade 12

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Keeping young adults motivated to continue developing strong literacy skills is crucial during the high school years. Many demands compete for their time and attention—friends, sports, technology. Although peer groups become increasingly important, family and community members still have important roles to play in helping learners build the literacy skills young adults will use in college, in their careers and as citizens. The following tips work to increase literacy engagement and enjoyment for young adults.

## **Talk with young adults and show them how adults talk with one another.**

- Engage young adults in discussion to share ideas about what is going on in their world and yours, and ask for their opinions.
- Talk with them about books, movies, news and other programs.
- It is not important to know everything about teen culture. Ask young adults about their music and interests.
- Let them see you talking with others to solve problems or make requests.

## **Help young adults cement the reading habits they will carry with them throughout their lives.**

- Continue to be a role model. Young adults need to see you reading. If you value it, then they will too.
- Be a serial reader. Finding a good series will keep your reader hooked.
- Research topics of interest together. Continue to model the safe use of technology to find information and make connections.
- Talk with young adults about what they are reading. Ask them to suggest books to you.

## **Support and encourage writing for a variety of different purposes.**

- Encourage engaging types of writing such as journaling, writing poetry, blogging and creating comic books.
- Model writing for real purposes. Send thank you notes and emails, write letters, keep a journal, or write out directions for a task.
- If a student you know is an avid writer, ask to see a finished piece and talk about the things you liked.