

For many teachers and students, the metaphor of a “metacognitive funnel” helps them think about and talk about the ways readers’ attention may shift as they read any given text. The representation of the funnel in Box 4.17 shows these different areas of attention and gives examples of representative metacognitive statements that apply to each. The goal for readers is to be able to intentionally and strategically focus their attention in ways that will help them accomplish their reading purposes.

## BOX 4.17

## A Metacognitive Funnel

The metaphor of a metacognitive funnel for reading helps students recognize that their attention during reading can shift. In a single reading event, students may find that their mind moves between different kinds of attention or focus.

### Notice Thinking

“It’s too hot in here.”      “When’s lunch?”      “What cool shoes!”

### Focus on Reading

“Where did this character come from? I guess I lost focus.”  
 “Too much new information! What does it mean?”

### Focus on Solving Reading Problems

“I need to figure out what this word problem is asking. I’ll chunk it to see if that helps.”  
 “This graph might help me understand the key terms.”  
 “How could I put this in my own words?”

### Focus on Disciplinary Literacy Practices

“Which parts of this word problem are irrelevant to solve for  $x$ ?”  
 “Whose point of view is this? Should I trust it?”  
 “Is there another explanation for this result?”