

Three Types of Interdisciplinary Study Formats

1. **Content based:** Teachers from different curricular areas work together to blend separate disciplines into an integrated unit of study for students often around a theme, time period, or essential question (See Framework for **Integrated Curriculum Units** and **Framework for Individual Classroom Interdisciplinary Units**)
2. **Skills based:** Teachers (or school systems) design framework so that students learn and practice a skill or skills such as writing, reading, researching or graphic organizers to represent symbolic thinking or high order thinking skills across curricular areas at the same time. Content from disciplines is not blended, but teachers work together to develop common vocabulary, understanding and use around the skill(s). In some cases such as senior exit projects, students select the content and only the skills are held in common across the student projects. (See **Framework for Individual Student Interdisciplinary Unit**)
3. **Process based:** Teachers from different curricular areas work together integrating disciplines around a process such as **create, perform, respond** which were identified in the 1997 Arts National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) or **inquiry** or the **Anchor Work process** identified by the National Endowment for the Arts Summer Teacher Institutes or the **Human Rights Process Model** identified by the Minnesota Human Right Commission. (See examples of learning processes in *Section 2: Learning Processes & Lesson Design* under *Tools and Processes*)