



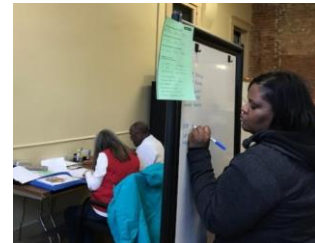
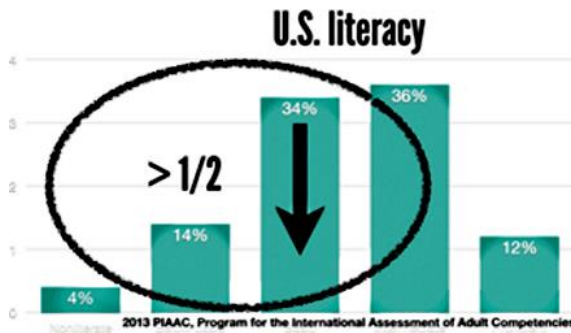
~ Promoting Adult Literacy Since 2003! ~

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Hello, Friends of Literacy. Unemployment statistics are big news right now. The current unemployment rate during these unusual times is in the 13-16% range. Unemployment is often a temporary situation.

Below is a chart tracking the illiteracy rate in the U.S. which you don't hear anything about. Illiteracy is usually an ongoing, and even generational condition, highly correlated to poverty. This is a good time to talk about it.



Learning at the OTRLC

Source: [Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies](http://www.piaac.gov)
(Literacy 'level' on left--not the same as grade level equivalency. See interpretation below.)

Chart Interpretation:

- 4% totally illiterate
- 14% read at a 1st - 3rd grade level (functionally illiterate)
- 34% read at a 4th - 5th grade level (what I consider basic literacy), sadly going DOWN
- 36% read at the 6th - 8th grade level
- 12% read at the 9th - 10th grade level
- ONLY 2% read at 11th grade and up/college

So, over half of our country (4+ 14 + 34= 52%) has only elementary school level academic abilities--an inextricable link to the challenges of our nation's ills today.

Illiteracy can be ameliorated. In Over-the-Rhine/Cincinnati, we are one of the few organizations that effectively brings about change for our students in our small, neighborhood program. We believe in potential. We teach people to read.

If you are reading this page, you can read at or above the high school level. But you knew that already.

Donate securely via Paypal today at: www.otrlearningcenter.org

Sincerely, and with hope,
Leslie Cook, Director

