



Nancy Young, Ed.D.

**Please Read FIRST** We must effectively serve ALL children. The words and features in my Ladder of Reading & Writing have been carefully chosen to recognize the wide range of ease in literacy acquisition, and to show that the provision of explicit instruction and implicit learning opportunities must always consider WHO needs WHAT and WHY.

Absolutely, we needed to get rid of “teaching” guessing”, but I am increasingly concerned about the “overcorrections” and “over-teaching” happening in the field. Teachers are increasingly being restricted to using only “approved” programs and materials. Many teachers are being required to teach all children in their classroom the same way, using a scripted program. Such restriction does not align to the science of wide range of ease in skill acquisition because learner needs vary (due to an interplay of genetic and environmental factors). Our teachers need access to appropriate materials that enable them to provide needs-based programming to effectively meet the wide range of literacy learning needs in classrooms.

This means that the field must recognize the continuum of ease in learning to read (as represented by my *Ladder of Reading & Writing*) at the beginning of pre-service training and as part of ongoing PD for teachers. I advocate that all those in other roles and/or decision-making capacities impacting the acquisition of literacy skills in schools become aware of the continuum of ease in learning to read, and I believe that parents/caregivers deserve to know about the range of ease in skill mastery. I am convinced that the swings and “wars” would stop if all the parties better understood WHO needs WHAT and WHY.

**When you email the form to me, please provide (written in your email) a short summary of how you plan to weave into your planned presentation/course/advocacy the needs-based messages of my Ladder of Reading& Writing. Please share with me your specific goal or area of focus, but please also assure me that your audience will leave better understanding the wide range of needs that exists, and that the meeting of those needs will vary. Thank you!**

**TERMS OF USE for inclusion of Dr. Young’s THE LADDER OF READING & WRITING© (2026)**

**in as part of one or more PRESENTATIONS or in a COURSE or ADVOCACY**

Thank you for your interest in Nancy Young’s The Ladder of Reading & Writing© intellectual property. Below are the terms of use to include Nancy Young’s The Ladder of Reading & Writing infographic (“Ladder”) in presentations/courses/advocacy efforts. Please DOWNLOAD this 2-page form (revised June 2026) and fill it in. Then email the completed form, along with a short summary (see above), to Nancy at [nyoung@nancyyoung.ca](mailto:nyoung@nancyyoung.ca) (filling by hand and sending photo of completed form is fine).



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I (applicant's name) \_\_\_\_\_ request permission to use Nancy Young's Ladder of Reading & Writing infographic ("Ladder") in the following presentation, course, or advocacy effort (list title) \_\_\_\_\_ taking place on this date \_\_\_\_\_ or between dates \_\_\_\_\_ delivered \_\_\_ in person (location): \_\_\_\_\_ OR \_\_\_ online OR \_\_\_ hybrid format

Applicant's role/title and location (province/state/country): \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Audience (Name of conference, group, school, university, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

**I have completed ALL of the following: (All of these MUST be checked off)**

\_\_\_ My presentation/course/advocacy aligns to the features and terms on the *Ladder of Reading & Writing*. As per above, be sure to clarify this in your email when you send Nancy this form.

\_\_\_ I've read Nancy's blog post providing an overview of the 2026 update of her *Ladder of Reading & Writing* <https://www.nancyyoung.ca/blog>

\_\_\_ I have signed up for Nancy's newsletter, to receive updates about her work <https://nancyyoung.ca/> (Necessary to find out about any future updates to Nancy's *Ladder of Reading & Writing*)

**I agree to: (All of these MUST be checked off)**

\_\_\_ Import the 2026 Ladder of Reading & Writing from Nancy's website into my slide (PDF).

\_\_\_ Include all credits, copyright details, and ALL other information on the Ladder (the infographic will not be altered in any way and all information will be visible).

\_\_\_ Insert onto the slide (beside or below the infographic itself) the words *Used with Nancy Young's permission*

\_\_\_ Include on the slide or (if you are providing) your list of references

• the link for Nancy's Ladder of Reading & Writing Page [www.nancyyoung.ca](http://www.nancyyoung.ca) as a recommended resource for attendees

• the link for Nancy's Blog Post providing the overview of her Ladder of Reading & Writing (2026) [www.nancyyoung.ca](http://www.nancyyoung.ca) as a recommended resource for attendees

**I agree that (Fill out only if you are delivering a course):**

\_\_\_ If included in a course, the Ladder infographic will only be included on a slide. The title "Ladder of Reading & Writing" will not be the title of a course or lesson or module) without Nancy's permission.

\_\_\_ The title "Ladder of Reading & Writing" will not be used in promotional materials without Nancy's permission.



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\_\_\_ The Ladder infographic will not be adapted or changed in any way. (Arrows on a slide, pointing out features, are permitted BUT rearrangements, additions, or omissions of one or more parts – or presenting in a different format of any type – are not permitted.)

**Handout specifics: (Fill out only if you want to give out Nancy's Ladder infographic as a handout):**

\_\_\_ I agree to tell recipients I have Nancy's permission to give Nancy's Ladder infographic as a handout.

This will be:

\_\_\_ Printed out on paper (in colour).

\_\_\_ In my presentation slides as an electronic PDF. (If electronic PDF, the infographic will be featured on a slide in my slide show – I will not send the PDF of the infographic separately)

\_\_\_ If I am ordering the printing of multiple copies via an online printing business, I will read the printing company's Terms of Agreement to ensure that company does not have the ability to use Nancy's copyrighted Ladder in any other way than printing for my specified use in this form.

**Multiple presenters: (Fill out only if this permission request relates to more than one presenter/advocate)**

\_\_\_ My fellow presenters have agreed to abide by the above

Email completed form along with short summary (as per above request) to [nyoung@nancyyoung.ca](mailto:nyoung@nancyyoung.ca). It may take a few days for Nancy to reply.

**Thank you!**

NOTE: Some people using PCs have experienced blurriness when they inserted the PDF into their slide. If the PDF seems blurry on your slide, try downloading the infographic in "PNG format".