Increasing Literacy Achievement with Comic Books, Short Stories, Dramas and Plays

Abstract: ASU is taking literacy to a new level with a partnership with Oki Data Printing Solutions. This paper highlights the overall structure of the program and the baseline data gathered in the initial phase of the program. The first goal is to increase 4-8th grade students' interest and achievement in reading and writing through literacy projects. The students create comic books, short stories, dramas and plays on the computer, and then are printed on a color laser printer. The second goal of this project is to create quality internship opportunities for ASU Preservice Teachers. The preservice teachers participate for 5 hours a week for 15 weeks. The 4-8th students work on their literacy projects in their classroom and in out-of school programs with the assistance of their classroom teacher, Faculty from ASU, and ASU Preservice Teachers. The culminating event of the program is a Young Authors' Conference at the ASU Poly campus, which includes writing workshops, exhibitors, and Celebration Luncheon for the young authors.

ASU-Poly School of Educational Innovation and Teacher Preparation and Project eXcellence have partnered with Oki Data Printing Solutions to create the Oki Data Literacy and Technology Project.

Project Goals
The goal of this project is to increase 4th-8th grade students' interest and achievement in reading and writing through literacy projects. The 4th-8th grade students will have the opportunity to create comic books, fiction and nonfiction books, dramas and plays. The second goal of this project is to create quality internship opportunities for ASU Education Students.

Project Overview
The 4th-8th grade students will work on their literacy projects in their classroom and in out-of-school programs with the assistance of their classroom teacher, Faculty from ASU, and ASU-Poly Technology Interns. The interns will participate for 5 hours a week for 15 weeks. During the program, classroom teachers and interns will work with literacy professionals and faculty members to develop writing workshops for the 4th-8th grade students. These workshops will be delivered by the interns to the 4th-8th grade students. The workshops will take place once a month during the spring semester. Listed below is a list of potential workshops.

Workshops
January – Get Ready, Get Set, Start Writing!
February – The Power of Writing
March – Graphics, Drawings, and Clip Art
April – Putting Your Publication Together (hosted at ASU-Poly)
The project will conclude in May 2007 with a Writers' Conference.

Writers' Conference
The Oki Data Writers' Conference will give students the opportunity to showcase their writing, learn about writing, and technology techniques. Students will also be able to enter their book in a writing competition and win prizes. All entrants will be invited to luncheon and participate in a book signing event.

Writers' Conference Presentations
- How to Be a Better Writer
- Inspiration to Organize Your Thoughts
- Hollywood High for Creating Dramas and Plays
- Using Video to Tell a Story
- Digital Storytelling with a Digital Camera
- Adobe to Create better Graphics
- MS Word and Writing Critques
- Using MS Publisher to Create Books
- Puppet Workshop

Program Benefits
Preservice Teacher Benefits - Technology Internship credits towards their technology credential, receive a technology gift certificate, and entered in a drawing to receive an Oki Data printer.

Teacher Benefits – Intern support in the classroom, graduate credit, technology gift certificate, and entered in a drawing to receive an Oki Data printer.

Research Overview
We do not assume the success of this program; success comes from carefully planned measures and evaluations. All program constituents are continuously evaluated thourgh surveys, interviews, and questionaires. This program is carefully planned to assess the 4-8th grade students' beginning and ending reading and writing attitude, pre and post reading and language-arts achievement, and interest and ability in the area of technology.

The reading and writing attitudes are measured by the Garfield Writing and Reading Attitude Survey. Academic achievement is measured through the use of the Leap Track Assessment and Instruction system. The technology interest and ablity are measured through an assessment designed by the lead author of this paper.