Curriculum Design-7th Grade Language Arts

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**Statement of Purpose**

Middle school is a crucial time period in a students’ life. During this time, students develop sophisticated reading and writing skills that allow them to analyze literature and master the content of the entire curriculum- social studies, science, and math. Reading becomes a powerful tool to find information, make sense of material, and find enjoyment in reading. Therefore, the state keeps a close watch on schools by issuing an achievement test in grades 3-8 to make sure schools are teaching appropriate reading skills.

Many struggling readers in middle school are disengaged from reading. While having low achievement scores, they also have low motivation for reading. There are several factors that contribute to this disengagement in middle school. Reading instruction is often disconnected from content, making reading tedious. Another is that students are too often asked to respond to textbooks with formal criticism rather than their own personal reactions. Third, students do not have as much freedom in the classroom as their elementary years.

The 7th grade curriculum design project included in this document is intended to provide support for engaged reading in the middle school classroom and ultimately improve achievement test scores. This will be done by having rich knowledge goals as the basis for instruction. It will also use real-world interactions to connect reading and student experiences. Third, students will have an abundance of interesting materials and books available to them and they will also have some choices in which materials to read. Last, this design gives direct instruction for important reading strategies and encourages collaboration in many aspects of learning.

According to the National Report Card published by the National Assessment of Educational Progress, Ohio’s reading scores are higher than over half of the states in the country. This may be due to the rigorous reading academic content standards that Ohio has in place, which are measured through achievement tests each year. The 7th grade curriculum design included is based on these content standards, as it also builds off of standards in previous years of schooling.

The ultimate goal of this curriculum is to motivate learners to be successful readers. It is designed to provide support for engaged reading while also adhering to the Ohio Academic Content Standards. This design also encourages students to be lifelong learners. The success of this curriculum can not only rely on the design but also on proper implementation.

References

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