Request #: 649 - TEAL - Dissertation

Synthesis Writing Instruction Methods: A Small-Scale Literacy Intervention

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February 13, 2023

Background

I plan to conduct research on a 10-day writing unit with 6th-grade language arts students (2 treatment and a comparison condition). Prior to the intervention, students at three schools will be randomly assigned to condition and pretested. After 10 days of instruction, students will be post-tested.

Sample

Proposed sample size of 150 (50 per condition/school)

Pre/post-test indicators of (1) writing affect (single measure); (2) writing quality (3 measures: holistic score, word count, and correct T units); and (3) reading ability (2 measures: comprehension {&} vocabulary).

Hypothesis

Research questions: Does explicit writing instruction have an effect on student reading ability?

Relevant variables: DV = Post-test score (nominal) IV = Condition Covariate = Prior achievement (to make Tx and comparison groups equivalent at baseline), teacher/school

Null Hypotheses:

Tx students demonstrate affective orientation toward writing at levels equal to comparison students. Tx students demonstrate gains in writing at levels equal to comparison students. Tx students demonstrate gains in reading at levels equal to comparison students.

Progress

I am in the design phase and trying to ensure I have a large enough sample size {&} that I choose the appropriate statistical test.

Request

Power analysis and research design

Timeline

I hope to finish my proposal by early March, defend, and then begin IRB in April. I expect my project's start time to be Fall 2023.