

Grant Summary
Connect Me to Literacy ELA/Reading Project
Merriwether Middle
Diane Knight, Teacher

Connect Me to Literacy was a project that aimed to keep middle school students engaged at every stage of the reading and writing process by establishing content based stations in the classroom. It was a return to the elementary idea of station implementation to introduce, practice, and extend learning.

The initial grant proposal was higher than the funds awarded so the project idea and expenditures were modified. The biggest modifications to the plan included themed days for engagement and extension activities, as opposed to daily rotations, and reducing the number of stations due to the size of my classes and funds. Mondays were referred to as Must Have and MUGS Mondays; engagement activities were based on the core skills for the week and on ongoing mechanics, usage, grammar, and spelling skills. Tuesdays and Thursdays were Turn the Page, Time to Read, and Technology days; students could read both content-related and self-selected books and complete online activities. Wednesdays were Quick Write Wednesdays; students could choose any theme-related topic and writing materials, and write and publish accordingly. Extension activities for Fridays included freewriting, giving feedback, having fun (content and board games), and or applying real world functional skills. Contributed funds were primarily spent on the purchase of new books, book sets, magazines, and book bins, all for use in the classroom library and for use on Turn the Page - Time to Read days. The remaining funds were spent on a variety of writing materials (for Quick Write Wednesdays and Freewrite Fridays) and on games and manipulatives (for Fun and Functional Fridays.)

The most noteworthy results include increased selection of books and materials that students could choose to use, engagement in classroom and station activities, student collaboration, and consequently, increased student interest in reading and language arts.

Additionally, students often comment about how fast the time seems to move in ELA, but in other classes, time tends to linger. Taking note of their comments simply confirms that “time flies when you’re having fun” - learning that is. Due to the careful planning of the Connect Me to Literacy lessons and the effects thereof, instructional time was not lost. Students were not actively watching the clock because they were actively engaged in learning.

In closing, certain classroom activities and materials would not be possible without generous donations like the Vision Grant. Thanks for both your initial consideration of Connect Me to Literacy and for the approval and funding of the project.

Materials Snapshots

