**Southwest Association for Developmental Education**

**October 31-November 2, 2012**

**Run Silent Run Deep: The Power of Sustained Silent Reading in the Classroom**

Additional new sections of Reading 900 and Reading 990 are being added each year at our institution. Recognizing the increase in classes, students were asked about their background and interest in reading. **A common thread of student responses is:**

**“I don’t read.”**

**“I have never read a book.”**

**“I hate reading.”**

**“I haven’t reading anything for years.”**

**“I can’t read!”**

Research indicates using “SSR has a greater impact on student abilities, attitudes, and behavior than any other classroom instruction. The single factor most strongly associated with reading achievement-- more than socioeconomic status or any instructional approach-- is independent reading.” (Krashen, 1993)

**Welcome**

**Introduction**

**Graphic Organizer**

**Actual Sustained Silent Reading (SSR) 5 minute segment**

**Self Guide through 5 Learning Activities**

* **Why Silent Read?**
* **How to Set up SSR in Your Reading Courses**
* **Questions and Answers**
* **Where to Find Good Books**
* **Can SSR Be Used in Other Classes?**

**Student Reflections on Sustained Silent Reading**

**Wrap Up**

**Example of My Graphic Organizer (first day of class)**

* Welcome students!
* Introductions
* Syllabus details
* Assignment read pages 1-25 in your textbook
* Study for syllabus test
* **Bring a book to read**

**How Should I Start SSR?**

While reviewing details of your syllabus on the first day of class discuss SSR with students. Explain to students on the first day of class that you will be silent reading the first ten minutes of class each day. This is the assignment.

**Graphic Organizer (second day of class)**

* Good morning! It’s a pleasure to teach you.
* **Sustained Silent Reading (SSR)**
* Take syllabus test
* Review reading assignment
* Complete Review Cards pages 25, 26,27,28

**When Should I Start SSR?**

On the second day of class start SSR. Model your expectation starting on the second day.

**Why Sustained Silent Reading (SSR)?**

Review the highlighted literature provided on the table. Look for specific reasons for implementing this program as well as the benefits of SSR. Incidentally, Sustained Silent Reading is also known as Voluntary Reading and Extensive Reading.

Pair and share. Make a list.

The literature is also provided in your packet.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

**How to Set Up SSR in Your Reading Courses**

Put this list in sequence with a partner.

\_\_\_Read for 10 minutes at the very beginning each of class period

\_\_\_Begin the second session of class.

\_\_\_Put SSR information in your syllabus.

\_\_\_Model the expected behavior of SSR each class period.

\_\_\_Teacher and students continue to read at the beginning of each class period throughout the semester.

\_\_\_Introduce the SSR program first day of class

\_\_\_After sharing the handout with the class explain to students you (the teacher) will also read at the beginning of each class period.

\_\_\_Explain benefits of SSR using handout on the first day of class.

**Questions and Answers**

Match the question with the answer.

Questions:

1. When should I start SSR? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How long is an SSR period? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Where can students find a good book? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What are the behaviors and expectations during SSR? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What kinds of books are acceptable to read? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Should I greet the students and then begin SSR? \_\_\_\_\_
7. How can students determine if the book is a suitable reading level? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What if after 20 pages I hate my book? \_\_\_\_\_
9. When should I have SSR? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What should a student do if he/she finishes their book? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Is there a follow-up such as a book interview? \_\_\_\_\_

Answers:

1. Wal Mart, Costco, airport bookstore, borrow from a friend, thrift store, family member recommendation, ask personnel at Barnes and Noble for an easy read, library, New York Times best sellers, your institution’s library generally has the latest best sellers, librarian’s recommendation
2. The first ten minutes of the class period.
3. Second day of class
4. Toss the book and find another one to read!
5. Ten minutes at the beginning of the semester and fifteen minutes towards the end of the semester.
6. Any book will work
7. Read the back cover. Read several pages of the book. If there are 5-10 difficult words on a page find an easier read.
8. Students will follow the instructor’s modeling. They will actively reading their book.
9. No, the instructor should be reading **exactly** when class starts. (Do not return papers to students , answer questions etc. just model reading during the ten minutes)
10. Get another good book to read!
11. I use a book interview. The student signs up for the interview on the first day of class. They do not need to have finished the book. They choose the question and I assist them in developing the depth of their critical thinking.

**Where to Find Good Books**

Brainstorm with a partner where students can find good books to read.

Make a list.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

**Can SSR Be Used in Other Classes?**

Answer yes or no.

1\_\_\_Students may look for other additional courses which include SSR.

2\_\_\_Students will generally focus more effectively in class after reading ten minutes using SSR.

3\_\_\_Students will generally read the type of material indicated for SSR.

4\_\_\_If books titles are shared at the beginning of the semester, students will find a book that suits them and read it during SSR.

5\_\_\_Students who use SSR will generally become stronger critical thinkers in class.

6\_\_\_Students will most likely share their thoughts and ideas in class and link concepts together because they have just reviewed the information in SSR.

7\_\_\_Students will most likely enjoy reading the **New York Times** and articles in the **SIRS Researcher** database for SSR if it is started at the beginning of the semester.

8\_\_\_Students in a study skills class, for example, will more likely discuss the strategies they are using because the information is not only familiar, but reviewed during SSR.

9\_\_\_Students of all backgrounds and ages like to share what they have been reading about in SSR.

10\_\_\_Students generally seem to enjoy reading using SSR in college classes.

**Student Reflections on Sustained Silent Reading**

**Reading 990 Fall 2011**

SSR has allowed me to learn what books attract me. I’ve learned it takes dedication to read a book. It gives me time to think.

Eddie C

I think SSR is a great way of getting students into reading… for me, I love it. Reading in class helps me increase my vocabulary and helps me read more.

Tinh N

What I like about SSR is that you benefit from it by reading to yourself and get lost in a new world. I like when I look up and see there are certain people reading a book, and that they are so interested in the book. It makes me want to read their book. I notice I am a faster reading; also it is silent so you can concentrate on your book.

Samai A

I personally think SSR is brilliant! It helps me refresh my mind and prepare myself for class. I feel more focused when I am reading and it helps to get rid of distractions. I have time to think.

Alex J

Honestly it is hard for me to continue reading a book when I get started because I just get sick of the book too easily. Ever since we started silent reading time I can feel my vocabulary intensify and I am starting to pay attention more. Silent reading helps. Michael S

Beginning every class period with silent reading (SSR) is something I enjoy! It gives me time to catch up on my book I am reading. It helps me calm down and really get ready for the class period. I am not a very good reader nor do I like reading but by doing SSR for ten minutes before class is helping me find enjoyment in reading. To me it is a good idea.

Madison M

What I like about silent reading is I can get to actually read a book I want to read. I have time to enjoy the book. I feel like it just gets my brain ready to learn for the day. It’s a good way to start my day.

Maria C

I enjoy coming into class and jumping in my book. It gives me a chance to warm up my reading skills for the class. I also like that it is a set time, each day but I would like to expand it to at least fifteen minutes.

Adrian M

Silent reading helps you to concentrate and think more deeply. It helps you to visualize and put yourself in the book. Also your brain functions more and helps you feel more intelligent.

Trevor H

To start off the class period with personal reading is a good thing. It clears your mind and allows you to be more focused in class. It also helps your mind get ready for learning, listening and understanding. This is a well thought out concept for students.

Ryan C

SSR has been beneficial for me to sit and focus my attention on some reading material.

Richard C

I see the benefits of reading and getting into the habit of reading.

Vinh N

Silent reading is good because it gives me a chance to read a good book. I don’t have time to read outside of class, so SSR is a great opportunity. I like Stephen King’s books, but could never read them. So SSR is really good for me.

Ignacio R

Silent reading, if you have a book you like to read comes in very useful. I for one really didn’t care much for reading. But after finding a good book I enjoyed I found that reading before class not only improves your reading skills, but also is leisure time for some people.

Edgar H

SSR has helped me to improve my thinking skills and gets me motivated to start class. When we read first it gets my mind going and awake and ready to begin to learn in class and answer questions. I also think it has helped my critical thinking and vocabulary. I notice I comment and ask more questions because I feel more confident and knowledgeable.

Jade S

Silent reading is a whole different way of thinking. When I silent read I understand the passages more. I think about what I read.

Marla J

I like silent reading and finding words I don’t know. It helps me grow my vocabulary. Ana

SSR helps me learn new words to use in my writing.

David K

SSR helps my comprehension and vocabulary skills. Amber B

SSR enhances my vocabulary and I can reread a passage if I don’t understand it. It improves my reading skills.

Vinzenzia M

I love silent reading. I love fantasy and crime and have read four books this semester.

Alyssa M

I learn new words I cannot forget. Deng M

In America I am reading a book about girls going to school. I read quietly and it is important to silent read. All girls must be able to go to school and read like I am.

Asha M

I hardly read but SSR has changed my perspective completely. Now I enjoy reading because once I open my book it’s like a whole new world I’m learning about. James C

I have been reading in class and I have found a new window for my college classroom. SSR also helps me improve my reading skills.

Arun C

It helps me understand various types of books and points of view the author is trying to portray. It also helps me read for longer periods of time. I am able to read faster and comprehend better. My reading skills are developing.

Victor C

**References**

**Papers**

Bell, Timothy. “Extensive Reading: Why and How?” Kuwait University <http://itselj.org/Artciles/Bell-Reading.html>

Day, Richard.“The Benefits of Extensive Reading (ER)” www.oupe.es/.../Recursos%20Destacados/the%20**benefits**%20of%20**extensive**%20**reading**.pdf · PDF file

Krashen, S. “88 Generalizations about Free Voluntary Reading” http;//www.sdkrashen.com/handouts/88Generalizations/01.html

**Journals**

Day and Bamford “Characteristics of an Extensive Reading Approach” (1998, p.7-8) httn://extensivereading.net/docs/ERChar.html

Mason, Beniko, and Krashen, Stephen “Can Extensive Reading Help Unmotivated Students of EFL Improve?” ITL Review of Linguistics, 117-118, 79-84, 1997.

Poulson, Eric J. “Self- Selected Readings as College Developmental Reading Approach” Journal of College Reading and Learning 36.2 (2006) ericpaulson.org/yahoo\_site\_admin/assets/docs/self-selected\_reading.160205827.pdf · PDF file

Stahl, Norman A., Simpson, Michele L., and Hayes Christopher G., “Ten Recommendations from Research for Teaching High-Risk College Students” reprinted from the Journal of Developmental Education http;//www.ncde.appstate.edu/resources/reports/documents/10\_Articl…