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Statement of Purpose

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Ninth Grade English Language Arts

 English Language Arts skills serve as the foundation for all learning that a student will do throughout his/her life. If a student does not develop strong reading, writing, grammar and vocabulary skills, that student will struggle in all other areas of learning. One of the guiding visions of the National Council of Teachers of English and the International Reading Association (2010) states, “All students must **have the opportunities and resources to develop the language skills** they need to pursue life's goals and to participate fully as informed, productive members of society.” These skills are also necessary to improve a student’s ability to communicate in an effective manner. As technology continues to change the way we live our lives and the way that we communicate, the skills needed to communicate effectively become vital.

 Our society today has become more reliant on written communication with the integration of text based communication in the work place and in daily life. “Students’ writing develops when they regularly engage in major phases of the writing process” (Ohio Department of Education, 2001). It is vital for students to be able to adequately communicate in a written format and also adequately understand and interpret what they are reading. Students also need to know when it is appropriate to communicate in a formal manner and when it is appropriate to communicate in an informal manner. “Many students leave English language arts classrooms thinking that writing equals creative writing, literary analysis, or the five-paragraph essay, without making the connection that most people write as part of the work they do and as part of being a member of society” (Cox, Ortmeier-Hooper and Tirabassi, 2009). All of these skills need to be integrated in the English Language Arts classroom so that students can see how these aspects of communication work together. This in turn allows them to see how these skills relate to how they communicate outside of the classroom.

Improving a student’s ability to communicate effectively will prepare that student to work in the twenty-first century workplace. Since we communicate in a variety of ways, it is important for students to know how to use English Language Arts skills in a variety of situations. Knowing these skills and how to use them adequately will allow a student to become an effective reader, speaker, and writer. These are skills that are vital in all areas of employment.

 The overall goal of this curriculum is to improve the reading, writing, vocabulary, grammar and communication skills of English Language Arts students. In doing this, students will also be able in improve their language arts skills in all other areas of the curriculum. An integrated approach will help students see that language arts skills are not used in isolation and apply in their other learning as well as in their daily lives.

References

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