

Arkansas Reading Association
an affiliate of the
International Reading Association

STUDIES AND RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATION

Current members of the ARKANSAS READING ASSOCIATION are invited to submit proposals for a Studies and Research Grant not to exceed \$750 for the **2008-2009** school year. Proposals should be written for classroom research projects in instructional methods, non-traditional approaches, parent involvement, independent reading, book publishing, or new techniques and/or strategies, for example. Grant funds may be used for such items as children's trade books, consumable materials, audiovisual materials and equipment, and conference or workshop expenses. Activities and expenditures such as these will be given priority over use of grant funds to purchase complete commercial programs.

Six copies of the proposal should be submitted to **Susan Richmond, 581 N. Tournament Dr., Fayetteville, AR. 72704**. The proposal must be postmarked no later than **February 1, 2008**. The proposal should not exceed three pages, single-spaced. Include the following information in the order given below:

COVER PAGE:

Project Title
Name of Applicant
Current Position
Business Address
Business Telephone/Fax
Home Address
Home Telephone
E-mail Address
Local Reading Council Association Affiliation
IRA Membership Number (required for processing)

PROPOSAL:

Title
Rationale for Project with current, relevant research cited
Description of Project
Specific Budget
Specific Project Timeline

A rubric (on reverse side) will be used to evaluate each proposal. Note that the criteria used stresses the important of using research to guide classroom activities and/or the collection of data to critically examine the effects of the proposed method on student learning. Identifying information should appear only on the cover page.

All applicants for the grant will receive notice of the selected recipient(s) in **April 2008**. This will enable the winner(s) to implement the proposed project during the fall semester of the 2008-2009 school year. A project and budget report (including receipts) is due **November 1, 2008**. The winner(s) will be recognized at the annual April Literacy Celebration and the ARA conference in November, and will be expected to present the project in a conference session. Recipients are also encouraged to submit a manuscript about the project to *The Reader*, ARA's journal, for publication review.

Note: Applicants may apply for multiple awards, but are only eligible for one ARA award. For more information contact your local president or susanr@arareading.org, or 479-443-4368.

www.arareading.org

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STUDIES AND RESEARCH GRANT SELECTION CRITERIA (Rubric for assessing application)

In keeping with the intent of this grant, the criteria used to assess grant applications stresses the importance of using research to guide classroom activities. The collection of data to critically examine the effects of proposed methods on student learning is also stressed. The following criteria will be used to judge the merits of grant applications.

Application Pack (10%)

- ③ All requested information is provided and clearly labeled or identified.

Rational for Project (30%)

- ③ The rationale for the project provides a substantive review of the professional literature supporting the proposed activity.
- ③ Literature used to support the practice is drawn from a sufficient number of *recent* articles from *peer-reviewed* journals or professional texts. Examples of peer-reviewed articles from *peer-reviewed* journals include *The Reading Teacher*, *Reading Research Quarterly*, *Language Arts*, etc.
- ③ All articles included in the rationale are accurately cited in the body of the text as well as in a reference list at the end of the project narrative.

Description of the project (40%)

The following sections are clearly labeled or used as *subheadings* to organize the project description:

- ③ Statement of the problem. The *reason for conducting this study or project* is clearly explained using examples from the teacher's own experience or from the professional literature.
- ③ Project Implementation. Procedures for implementing the project or study are thoroughly described including steps necessary in planning for the project as well as the day-to-day implementation.
- ③ Data collection methods. This section delineates specific measures (pre/post tests, running records, surveys etc.) to be used in determining the impact of the project on student learning.

Budget (10%)

- ③ All anticipated expenditures are listed with an estimated cost for each item.
- ③ All narrative accompanies the budget explaining how the items listed will be used to carry out the project.

Project Timeline (10%)

- ③ Each step of the project is listed chronologically.
- ③ Timeline includes project planning and setup as well as data collection and analysis.
- ③ Timeline includes plans for submitting proposals for presenting the project at the ARA annual conference. (Deadline for Call for Proposals is listed on the ARA website.)