

Academic Enrichment Grant Application - EXAMPLE

(The answers below were provided by Mindy Shaw who received an “Academic Enrichment” grant in 2017. Personal and school information has been left out.)

Background Information:

Date: February 27, 2017

Project Title: Readers are Leaders

Name: Mindy Shaw

Proposal Description:

Questions:

1. **Based on the needs of your students, what academic issue do you want to address?**
100 words.

My students' academic issue is the lack of motivation to read in intermediate grades. We often see students fall prey to the allure of technology and miss the value and pleasure of a fantastic book. Presenting students with incredible books and showing them how rewarding it is to be a great reader will help my students for life. The CIA system (Collect, Interpret, and Apply) is thoughtfully designed and I have seen tremendous student growth by using the CIA Read Aloud part of the system. My dream is to have the other component, the CIA Book Club.

2. **Describe your project and how it will address the academic needs of your students. (Please provide information on any models, programs, books or research with citations related to your project.)** **500 words**

The project I'm proposing involves utilizing the CIA 5th grade Book Club in conjunction with the CIA Read Aloud by the company Read Side by Side to greatly enrich the Language Arts program for 5th grade students. Once past 3rd grade students are faced with increasingly difficult reading materials and lack the skills and endurance to tackle the material. The CIA approach is built for “College and Career Readiness” standards and using one part of the system in class has been astounding. Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy, Appendix A: Research Supporting the Key Elements of the Standards suggests that “*In brief, while reading demands in college, workforce training programs, and life in general have held steady or increased over the last half century, K-12 texts have actually declined in sophistication, and relatively little attention has been paid to students' ability to read complex texts independently. These conditions have left a serious gap between many high school seniors' reading ability and the reading requirements they will face after graduation. The second part of this section addresses how text complexity can be measured and made a regular part of instruction.*” The appendix goes on to describe that a systematic approach to challenge readers with increasingly complex text and tasks is the key to preparing students for college, career and life demands.

The CIA system begins with the Read Aloud component that models and teaches higher level thinking that good readers demonstrate. The CIA Book Club takes what is learned and allows students to use the system to work in collaboration with peers and teachers and be held accountable for independent practice. Writing is embedded in both the Read Aloud part of the program and the Book Club. Writing using text evidence is an essential part of Common Core and students, using the system, are guided and supported with high quality text and interesting projects to hone their skills. Having participated in the “CIA Read Aloud” component, I have seen a big impact with my student’s love of reading and their ability to work with complex texts.

3. **Describe your school and the students who will participate in your project. Include the number of students who will be impacted by your work directly or indirectly. 100 words**

Riverside Elementary is a rural elementary that serves approximately 100 5th grade students from a school district of about 1,200 students. Our students are amazing and deserve the best opportunities we can provide. Our free and reduced lunch percent is 53% and many of our children come from impoverished backgrounds where education is not the primary focus. We know our families trust us that we’ll provide their children with a safe learning environment and inspire their students to create habits that will serve them well in life.

4. **How does your project enhance what you’re already doing academically or create new opportunities for your students? 200 words**

This project will greatly enhance what we are already doing with the CIA Read Aloud component by having the students take the next step and practice these skills independently and collaboratively with students and in conference with their teacher. We possess part of the program that’s meant to function as a system. We’ve given them the car and now we’ll give them the “motor” to drive it. The CIA Book Club units enables students to utilize what they learn and apply those skills to their independent work with a highly engaging system. This CIA Book Club system helps students realize they’re capable of comprehending complex texts that the Common Core demands. They not only read the material but they’re able to discuss, apply meaning across texts and create analytical pieces of writing. Success breeds success and this would be wonderful to help our students imagine the possibilities they sometimes feel are out of reach for them. We want them to have that “motor” or inner desire, to read and achieve!

5. **Describe what will be produced from your project (e.g. student reports, videos, journals, power point) 100 words.**

With the CIA Book Club system in place (with the CIA Read Aloud curriculum), the students will create and engage in literacy building activities. Depending on the unit, students will work with the whole class, in partners and group discussions as well as personally reflect on their reading. For each CIA Book Club book, students will create timelines, plot summaries, retell summaries, synthesis writing and culminate their learning with digital presentations to share the author’s message with text-based evidence.

6. Describe how you will evaluate your project. Describe the indicators of effectiveness you will use such as number of students involved, skills participants will acquire and/or audiences impacted by student work. 200 words

The initial goal of this project is to help intermediate students in the 5th grade at Riverside Elementary become engaged and thoughtful readers who tackle complex texts and love reading. The CIA Book Club is a dream for our team to achieve our secondary goal of creating classroom success by allowing students to be more independent in their work from CIA Book Club texts. We will gauge the success of this project by following a child with qualitative and quantitative data throughout the year as their literacy grows with frequent teacher and student conferences. We will use the MAP test as a spot check on achievement and the Smarter Balanced Assessment as one of the summative assessments. Students will also participate in writing projects highlighting the skills of synthesis, author's craft, and line of thinking. Approximately one hundred students a year (and every year after that) will be impacted as their literacy confidence grows through this rigorous, systematic and high quality approach. The impact will be felt for years as they continue to strive to be successful readers.

Budget:

Item: Cost: How are expenses related to your project?

1. CIA Book Club guides for units 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, and 5.5 (4 guides @\$50.00 = \$200.00 each x 4 teachers at 5th grade = \$800.00)

The Book Club guides for are used to implement the novels for independent leveled reading.

2. CIA Book Club workbooks (set of 30 is \$60.00 x 4 teachers = \$240.00)

The Book Club workbooks are used for collaboration and independent work and projects, we may reproduce them for future use.

3. CIA Book Club class novels for Unit 5.1 (3 Novels, sets of 10 for each title = 179.70 x 4 teachers at the 5th grade = \$718.80)

The set works alongside the CIA Read Aloud system for independent and collaborative work for Unit 5.1.

4. CIA Book Club class novels for Unit 5.2 (3 Novels, sets of 10 for each title = 170.70 x 4 teachers at the 5th grade = \$682.80)

The set works alongside the CIA Read Aloud system for independent and collaborative work for Unit 5.2.

5. CIA Book Club class novels for Unit 5.5 (3 Novels, sets of 10 for each title = 194.70 x 4 teachers at the 5th grade = \$778.80)

The set works alongside the CIA Read Aloud system for independent and collaborative work for Unit 5.5

6. CIA Read Aloud for Unit 5.3 (teacher manual \$60.00 x 4 teachers at 5th grade = \$240.00)

This would be an additional unit to teach informational text at a deeper level. It also supports our American History study.

7. Set of novels for Unit 5.3 Read Aloud (Class set of 30 Novels \$245.70 x 2 sets for teachers at 5th grade = \$491.40)

This would be an additional novel that supports our History study.

8. 5. CIA Book Club class novels for Unit 5.3 (1 nonfiction book, set of 30 books \$284.70 x 3 sets to share at 5th grade = \$854.10)

The set works alongside the CIA Read Aloud system for independent and collaborative work for Unit 5.5 to support our American History studies.

Total cost \$4,745.90