

Mindy Perry
November 5, 2012
LIS 725 – Grant Proposal

Helping Hand Grant Proposal

Need:

South Side High School in Blue Island, IL is located in a south suburb of Chicago with about 1700 students from Blue Island, Merrionette Park, Garden Homes, Alsip, and Robins. 64% of our students come from families receiving public aid, live in institutions for neglected or delinquent children, are supported in foster homes with public funds, or are eligible to receive free or reduced-price lunches. The average ACT score in English is at 17.5, almost 3 points below state average. On the 2010-2011 Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE) as a school in reading, 27.9% of our students met or exceeded standards compared to 51% of the State. We have seen a 2% decrease from the previous year. The language arts teachers and the Media Center are requesting this grant to fund an author, Norm Cowie, to provide the junior and senior class a literacy speaking appearance and to purchase approximately 60 new books for the curriculum.

Committed to our mission of enhancing knowledge and skill-building, we need our students to excel in reading and writing in order to become life-long learners and productive members of society. An alternative perspective on reading and writing from an author can help to increase reading comprehension and standardized testing scores. South Side High School's goal is to increase reading comprehension scores on the ACT and PSAE exams by 1%. Language Arts teachers are looking for new books to incorporate into their curriculum which will motivate their students to read and write creatively.

Impact:

The 11th and 12th grade students of South Side High School will benefit from an author's perspective of reading and writing. Norm Cowie will discuss and analyze the various components of books and how to write a novel or long writing project. Structure of a story is important to understand whether one is reading or writing because it improves student's comprehension skills. Norm Cowie's use of humor and readings of passages from his books will work towards capturing the audience's attention and motivation the students to become lifelong learners.

Research by Ulmer and Matzen (2010) supports:

Research shows that enhancing all of the literacy modalities (reading, writing, speaking, listening, and visualizing) helps improve reading abilities. Rosenblatt (1978) suggests that the transaction between the reader, text, and context of the reading event also determines a student's comprehension. (p. 19)

Design:

Literacy speaking presentation will take place during Connection hour in the gymnasium. Norm Cowie will present for one and a half hours with question and answer. He will be available for individual questions and book signing if students bring in personal copies of the book or the bookmarks created by the Media Center. Norm Cowie will autograph anything the students request to be signed, within reason.

The Literacy speaking presentation meets the following standards:

CC. 11-12.RL.5 Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure specific parts of a text contribute to its overall structure and meaning as well as its aesthetic impact.

CC. 11-12.W.2.b Develop the topic thoroughly by selecting the most significant and relevant facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience's knowledge of the topic.

4.2.4 Show an appreciation for literature by electing to read for pleasure and expressing an interest in various literary genres.

3.2.2. Show social responsibility by participating actively with others in learning situations and by contributing questions and ideas during group discussions.

The assessment of the literacy speaking presentation will be evaluated using the following:

- ACT & PSAT scores – to determine increases in scores compared to previous year
- Student questionnaire – to determine an increase in student motivation and interest in reading and writing

Management Plan:

The first step is to contact Norm Cowie to determine date, price, curriculum program ideas, and miscellaneous details. Once the date is determined, Mindy Perry, Media Specialist, and four Language Arts teachers; Lois Lane, Harley Quinn, Barbara Gordon, and Selina Kyle, will begin promoting the event in the school and at the Crestwood Public Library. Student volunteers will help create promotional poster boards and banners throughout the school. The Language Arts teachers will use Norm Cowie's book *Fang Face* in their English class. He has program ideas specifically for teachers on how to use his books in the classroom curriculum. Mindy Perry will keep a master list of students who RSVP to the event. Students will RSVP either in the Media Center or in their English class. Some students may need bus service after the event which will be coordinated through the Media Center. Lois Lane will coordinate the bus service. Harley Quinn will reserve the gymnasium date and time, reserve tables and

chairs for the presentation and book signing space. The PTO members Molly Hayes and Karolina Dean will handle the ordering and set up of food and beverages through Subway. Mindy Perry will create a book display in the Media Center and coordinate all media and equipment for the day of the event; microphones, projector, laptop, and cords. Books will be purchased, cataloged, and delivered to the Language Arts teachers through the Media Center. The Crestwood Public Library will be contacted and requested to obtain Norm Cowie's books. We will ask them to do a book display and to announce the event in their monthly newsletters and fliers.

Personnel:

- Media Specialist: Mindy Perry
- Language Art teachers: Lois Lane, Harley Quinn, Barbara Gordon, and Selina Kyle
- Media Specialist's Aide: Lynda Carter
- PTO members: Molly Hayes and Karolina Dean

Promotion:

- Book display in the Media Center
- Book talk Norm Cowie's books in each language arts class
- Books read in English class with curriculum program ideas
- Banners, posters, and fliers around the school – cafeteria, gymnasium, hallways, Media Center
- Author speaking appearance information on the front page of school website & Media Center website
- Bookmark creation promoting event & the associated books
- Crestwood Public Library to create a book display & promote our event in the newsletter & fliers
- Press Release in the local newspaper

Sustainability:

The Language Arts teachers will use Norm Cowie's books for the next two years in their classroom lesson plans based on the program ideas from Mr. Cowie. The current freshman and sophomore students will hear the buzz of the speaking appearance from the junior and senior class and look forward to reading the books in their English class during their junior and senior year. *Fang Face* will be read during the

student's junior year, and the sequel *Werewoof* will be read in their senior year. Students will have access to Norm Cowie's books after the speaking appearance through the Media Center. Based on the success of this speaking appearance, the PTO will hold fundraisers to raise money for future author speaking appearances.

Press Release:

South Side High School in Blue Island received a grant from Helping Hand to improve the literacy of the junior and senior class. Language arts teachers; Lois Lane, Harley Quinn, Barbara Gordon, and Selina Kyle, and Media Specialist, Mindy Perry, collaborated on a grant which will allow Norm Cowie, author, to make a speaking appearance. Approximately 60 of his books, *Fang Face* and *Werewoof*, will be purchased to be used in the curriculum. The students are thrilled to have Norm Cowie discuss his books. Norm's use of humor will no doubt capturing the student's attention and motivation them into becoming lifelong learners.

Local Contribution/Collaboration Budget Sheet:

Free use of:

- Gymnasium space
- Tables
- Media equipment
- Personnel time
- Food & drink from Subway

Citation:

Ulmer, C., Truett, C., & Matzen, N. (2010). Dynamic Partnerships to Improve Reading Scores. *Library Media Connection*, 28(5), 18-19.