



7950 Jones Branch Drive U-8  
McLean, VA 22108  
703-854-3400  
www.usatodayeducation.com

### **USA TODAY's Summer School Intensive Reading Program Teacher Survey Results – August 2007**

Approximately 530 teachers participated in USA TODAY's Summer School Intensive Reading Program in June and July of 2007. Fifty teachers responded to our survey regarding this program.

#### **Comments to "Would you participate again?"**

- The students and I truly enjoyed the newspaper. It was "real" reading for them. I strongly recommend that this program continues for schools and students.
- This was a wonderful program that provided valuable graphic organizers for students to use. The key with all of the techniques was repetition. Even when it didn't feel like it was working, the next day kids would be talking about it or wanting to try that same strategy again.
- Excellent articles and activities.
- My students enjoyed reading the papers and sharing their ideas with others.
- I believe that this program creates an interest in reading in students because it includes high interest text that is not too difficult for them to read. My students also showed growth in vocabulary from reading the articles. They especially liked the iPhone article.
- I would also like to see your classroom curriculum for journalism students
- Our school has enrolled in the program for the upcoming school year. I'm thrilled to be able to share this with our teachers who did not teach summer school. I've already conferenced with several and they are excited to start.
- Even with the time constraints this was a very good program for summer school.
- It was a wonderful resource. Students learned they were not self-limited to the sections they originally found interesting. It truly opened new worlds.
- The exercises were very effective. My students were very active with the papers and the activities. Thank you for the program. I used this during summer school and it really made my students feel worthy when they were given the newspapers. Most of these kids don't see these types of texts in the home so they really stepped up and tried to use their maturity to comprehend the new vocabulary and understand some of the issues that Americans are facing.
- The paper allowed me to tackle issues I never would have brought up. With the statistics and background we were able to discuss adolescent obesity and monitor the activity of drug companies who released weight loss drugs and then Kellogg's who reduced their sugar content in children's products. There is no way I would have been able to provide this learning experience with USA Today. Thanks, Julia
- I would also like to mention the fact that I like the varied activities that allow students hands-on opportunities to focus on skills.
- I was able to use the graphs and other statistical data to teach reference and research and incorporate math - the uses of Data Analysis and Measures of Central Tendencies.

**Suggestions for improvement included:**

- The students each need a copy of their own newspaper. I found when I reused the paper for another class the kids had less interest in a used or already highlighted text. Enough copies for each student is very important.
- I would provide MORE multiple choice questions for assessing the students' reading.
- Keep it as colorful as you do now.
- For the students I had this summer, I would like to see the program a little less intense; in other words, easier.
- It is a great program.
- Extend the paper for at least three days a week.
- I would include more focused skills-based activities.
- Simplify activities just a bit. Often, the USA today vocabulary is difficult for the struggling readers in 7th and 8th grades.
- I would implement the USA TODAY reading program in a 9th grade reading class. This group of students needs to be exposed to the world and real world issues.
- I feel that more vocabulary exercises would be of great help to our struggling students. The exercises were great!

- 
- **94% said that USA TODAY's Intensive Reading Program was a valuable resource.**
  - **86% said that their students were interested in reading USA TODAY.**
  - **71% said that their students' reading skills have shown improvement.**
  - **96% would participate in USA TODAY's Reading Program again.**