



# The Impact of the Reading with USA TODAY Program

## Testing results:

Miami-Dade school district purchased the *Reading with USA TODAY* program for all of its eleventh and twelfth grade intensive reading classrooms. It was the only curricular change made in the 2008-09 school year. Below is a comparison of the standardized test pass rates from 2008 (prior to using USA TODAY) and 2009 (after only three months of using the USA TODAY program) for the some of the Miami-Dade high schools (a complete list is available, upon request). The comparative data below is empirical data proving the efficacy of the USA TODAY reading program.

### Miami Carol City High

2008	14% of Juniors passed with mean score of 240 6% of Seniors passed with mean score of 239
2009 (with USA TODAY)	15% of Juniors passed with mean score of 253 (+13 point gain) 13% of Seniors passed with mean score of 247 (+8 point gain)

### Miami Edison High

2008	5% of Juniors passed with mean score of 233 7% of Seniors passed with mean score of 249
2009 (with USA TODAY)	10% of Juniors passed with mean score of 253 (+20 point gain) 17% of Seniors passed with mean score of 258 (+9 point gain)

### Miami Norland

2008	9% of Juniors passed with mean score of 252 22% of Seniors passed with mean score of 261
2009 (with USA TODAY)	28% of Juniors passed with mean score of 271 (+19 point gain) 16% of Seniors passed with mean score of 262 (+ 1 point gain)

### North Miami High

2008	7% of Juniors passed with mean score of 235 7% of Seniors passed with mean score of 238
2009 (with USA TODAY)	17% of Juniors passed with mean score of 252 (+17 point gain) 17% of Seniors passed with mean score of 255 (+17 point gain)

## Survey results:

The following is selected (preliminary) results of the Miami-Dade 2010 Post-program teacher and student surveys:

### Teachers:

- 73% are using lesson repeatedly
- 80% teacher and students together select articles
- 57% use USA TODAY lessons with other content

### Students:

- 60% use what they read in USAT in other classes
- 38% said their participation in class increased a little
- 26% said their participation in class increased a lot
- 25% said their attendance increased
- **86% said they feel USA TODAY can help them become a better reader**

### Teacher testimonials:

“USA TODAY is working very well in my English I classes. I have delivered the scavenger hunt lesson, question/answer relationships lessons, and the found poem lesson (I repeated the QAR and found poem lessons several times). These lessons provide excellent practice and preparation for my students, as they are usually attacking more difficult texts in their grade-level reading. The USA TODAY newspapers are very engaging, ensuring that every student, at every level, participates in using the reading strategies. In terms of outcomes, my students have improved in their ability to read aloud fluently, find main ideas, and ask questions about what they read. The USA TODAY content and curriculum have provided my students literacy practice with real-world text. In addition, students have gained experience in cooperative learning, discussion, and using visuals and graphic organizers to increase comprehension. . . .I have 195 students, all of whom have experienced these lessons (I make my 60 copies last throughout all the classes).”

Scott Reindl  
Katella High School, California

“I just wanted to touch bases with you regarding implementing this new resource into my classroom. NEVER in my 4 years of teaching have I had ALL of my students engaged. The day I introduced the paper, I cannot say that I had them all; however, the day of the scavenger hunt--WOW! I love this resource and so do they. I debriefed at the end and asked some questions and unequivocally they wanted to continue using the paper! Many of them are not newspaper people. . . . I then proceeded to show them that this [USA TODAY] has a format that does not change and assured them that I would not give them the whole paper to complete assignments from in one class period.”

Diana Douglas, M.Ed.  
North Marion High School, Florida

“Thank you from my students (160) and from myself for the newspapers throughout this school year. We have over 50% in the free and reduced lunch category. These students generally do not have newspapers in their homes. Many stopped by each day to take the papers home for their parents and grandparents. I would hear at the end of the day: ‘Can I have one to take to my grandmother?’ ‘My dad really wants me to bring a paper home, if there is an extra one.’ ‘I didn't get a chance to read the rest of that article. Do you have any left?’ And these comments were after at least a 1/2 dozen students had read each paper. Your headlines also added to the interest in reading. Believe it or not, many 6th grade students come to the middle school believing they do not like to read. It is my challenge to convince them that reading is a pleasure. Your papers were always scanned on the way into the classroom; they held the front entrance table spot. Chosen to pique their interest.”

Deborah A. Rode, NBCT  
Greencastle Middle School, Indiana