

# Westminster College Reading Specialist and Reading Specialist/ Special Education Comprehensive Exam/Action Research Timeline

Updated Dr. Klassen Endrizzi, May 2017

## Topic for Action Research Project

Choose a literacy topic of significance to you. Review the suggested list of topics below. Submit your topic choice to the Reading Specialist Coordinator for approval during the first 2 weeks of Education 940.

## Suggested topics

Elementary – Comprehension, Family-School Partnerships, Guided Reading, Units of Study, Reading Workshop, Writing Workshop, Literature Groups, Vocabulary, Embedded Phonics, Literacy Assessment, Independent Reading, Interactive Read Alouds, Multicultural Literature, ELL, Books for Boys, Informational Texts,,,

Secondary - Content Area Reading, Text Dependent Analysis, Spelling Development, Assessment Driven Instruction, Multicultural Literature, ELL...

## Also consider

Visiting leading literacy publisher websites to hunt for topics of interest:

- Heinemann <http://www.heinemann.com>
- Stenhouse <https://www.stenhouse.com>
- NCTE <http://www.ncte.org>
- ILA <http://www.literacyworldwide.org>

You might purchase a new professional development book or journal article to explore as you begin your research.

## Overview Action Research Project

1. Literature Review (Education 940)  
Begin to Plan and Initiate Inquiry
2. Continue working on Inquiry in next semesters or over summer or winter break and in Reading 860
3. Complete Action research, present at Kappa Delta Pi bi-annual Graduate Symposium, November or April

The Reading Specialist Comprehensive Exam offers graduate students the opportunity to explore their questions about literacy instruction or assessment through an Action Research project.

Graduate students will consider the place of teachers as knowledgeable researchers through this multi-course project. Pennsylvania's Teacher Evaluation System 2015 (Charlotte Danielson model) invites classroom teachers to conduct Action Research projects to improve their instruction.

The topic for your Action Research project for Reading Specialist students must be approved by the program coordinator.

1. Literature Review (Education 940)
  - a. Choose topic during the first week of class. Submit topic approval form to Reading Specialist Coordinator for approval.  
  
Suggested topics  
  
Elementary – Comprehension, Family-School Partnerships, Guided Reading, Units of Study, Reading Workshop, Writing Workshop, Vocabulary, Literacy Assessment, Independent Reading, Interactive Read Alouds, Multicultural Literature, Embedded Phonics, Language Development...  
  
Secondary - Content Area Reading, Text Dependent Analysis, Spelling Development, Assessment Driven Instruction, Literature Groups, Informational Texts for content area classes, Books for Boys...
  - b. Conduct thorough literature review of literacy topic. Explore literacy journals through ED 940 LibGuides. Hunt through websites of national literacy companies (Heineman, Stenhouse and Scholastic) and ILA and NCTE websites to find books, journal articles and multimedia resources to explore (podcasts, websites like Readwritethink.org, etc.).
  - c. Write a 3+ page research paper summarizing discoveries, citing 10 different literacy journals and literacy books.
2. Plan and Initiate Inquiry in subsequent courses, continue working on Inquiry (Reading 860)
  - a. Refine research question. Create an Action Research Schedule outlining who, what, why, where and when of your exploration. Talk with administrator and reading specialist/literacy coach and share plans.
  - b. Initiate exploration. Videotape and photograph research experience. Keep a learning log outlining reflections of discoveries. Organize a notebook, electronic

or hardcopy, keeping track of interactions. Continually gather evidence of growth process.

3. Complete Inquiry and present at Kappa Delta Pi bi-annual Graduate Symposium

Graduate students will complete their inquiry independently, organize data and analyze discoveries.

- a. Complete inquiry and organize findings.
- b. Analyze and interpret findings. Develop a powerpoint or prezi presentation using photos and video clips, in order to share discoveries with Westminster College undergraduates at their Kappa Delta Pi bi-annual Graduate Symposium.
- c. Submit a notebook and presentation to the Reading Specialist coordinator.

Westminster College's Reading Specialist or Special Education/Reading Specialist  
Comprehensive Exam

Approval Form for Action Research Project

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Program \_\_\_\_\_

Cohort \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Topic

Rationale for Topic

Program Coordinator Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Dr. Klassen Endrizzi, May 2017

Director of Graduate Studies Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## Example for Reading Specialist Action Research Project

Topic: Reading Workshops/Book Clubs

The Action Research Project is designed to address a particular interest, need or problem you have in your classroom. For example, you might be struggling with your one-size-fits-all basal reading program and realize the need for differentiated reading instruction. You may choose to explore how to implement Reading Workshops or Book Clubs in order to learn how to meet diverse readers' needs. The first step is to complete the Approval form and receive approval from the Reading Specialist coordinator, Dr. Klassen Endrizzi.

### Part 1 - Complete your Literature Review of Reading Workshop during the Research course, Education 940.

Hunt for literacy books and professional literacy journals using Lib Guide for Education 940. Compile a Literature review of 10 books and articles and write a 3 page summary of your discoveries about Reading Workshop.

Education 940 Lib Guide Literacy Journals to use for Literature Review

International Literacy Association

- *Reading Teacher*
- *Journal of Adolescent Literacy*
- *Reading Research*

National Council of Teachers of English

- *Language Arts*
- *Voices from The Middle*
- *English Journal*
- *Research in the Teaching of English*

American for Supervision and Curriculum Development

- *Educational Leadership*

Literacy Research Association

- *Journal of Literacy Research*

Children's and Young Adult Literature

- *Journal of Children's Literature*
- *School Library Journal*

### Part 2 – Plan and Initiate your Action Research project, work on Action research project in Reading 860

Use the ideas compiled from your Literature Review to refine your research question. Outline who, what why, where and when you will conduct your Reading Workshop. Share your ideas with your administrator and reading specialist/literacy coach. Next initiate your Reading Workshop exploration. Videotape and photograph research experience. Keep a learning log outlining reflections of discoveries.

Organize a notebook, electronic or hardcopy, keeping track of interactions. Continually gather evidence of growth process.

### Part 3 – Complete your Action Research project independently

Organize your findings from implementing a Reading Workshop approach. Then analyze and interpret your findings based on insights from your Literature Review. Develop a powerpoint or prezi presentation using photos and video clips, in order to share your Reading Workshop discoveries with Westminster College undergraduates or colleagues at your school. Submit a notebook and presentation to the Reading Specialist coordinator, Dr. Klassen Endrizzi..

Submit the following components of your Action Research project:

1. Part 1 - Literature Review
2. Part 2 - Rationale for topic/question/issue
3. Part 2 - Evidence of your exploration through videotapes, photos, learning log, etc.
4. Part 3 - Evidence of your discoveries and your analysis
5. Part 3 – Powerpoint or Prezi outlining your exploration, changes in your teaching resulting from AR project
6. Part 3 – Reflective paper outlining your growth and new insights from completing AR project (minimum 5 pages)

## Reading Specialist Exit Criteria

Reading Specialist certification candidates are required to demonstrate competency in the following three areas:

- 1. Completion of the Reading Specialist Course of Study (33 semester hours, 11 courses)**  
See listing of courses
- 2. Comprehensive Exam**  
See Action Research overview
- 3. Praxis Test**  
Passing score according to Pennsylvania Department of Education requirements - minimum of 570, see Westminster Graduate Program webpage at <http://www.westminster.edu/academics/graduate/pdf/praxis-info.pdf>

Reading Specialist candidates must receive a passing score of at least 570 on the Reading Specialist Praxis exam. Due to the intensity of the exam, we recommend students save components from every graduate course to review and study prior to taking the exam. Candidates are expected to spend at least one to two months reviewing materials prior to taking the Praxis.

Beginning in Reading 810, faculty will review key concepts from the course during the last class session, offering students test prep strategies prior to taking the Praxis exam.

<b>Reading Specialist course</b>	<b>Central readings and materials from courses to study more intently, prior to taking the RS Praxis exam</b>
Reading 810	Cooper quizzes, National Reading Panel Put Reading First booklet, Miscue analysis materials
Reading 820	Gunning quizzes
Reading 850	Gillet quizzes
Reading 980	Strickland strategies
Reading 990	Receive Praxis Preparation Booklet
Education 890	Spandel quizzes
Reading 860	Review Praxis booklet, Vogt discussions
Reading 830	Lynch-Brown quizzes