

Arkansas Tech University
Professional Development Grant
Final Report

Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers
2014 Annual Conference
Delray Beach, Florida
October 30 – November 2, 2014

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B. Restatement of Professional Enhancement Opportunity

The Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers (ALER) Annual Conference was held in Delray Beach, Florida, on October 30 – November 2, 2014. The theme of this conference was “*Bridging Cultures through Literacy.*” This theme addressed our world and its diversity. My presentation was entitled “*MANTLE: The development and implementation of an instrument to analyze non-text elements.*”

C. Brief Review

My Presentation discussed content analysis as a method of analyzing any form of content by counting various elements. I also explained how categories for analysis were developed in order to create a more objective analysis of the content, rather than merely comparing the content based on an impression as well as how an instrument, named the MANTLE was developed to analyze the non-text elements in nonfiction textbooks. An analysis of the instrument was given consisting of the three components of the instrument: Depth of Knowledge, based on Webb’s (Webb, 1997) Depth of Knowledge and Porter’s (2002) Content Matrix; The Level of Instruction, based on the language of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), such as *interpret and create visuals including graphs, charts, tables, timelines, illustrations, and maps;* and the Level of Complexity, based upon Curcio’s (1987) terminology. The application of the sections of the MANTLE were explained focusing on The Depth of Knowledge being used to examine the reproduction of the student page within the teacher edition while the Level of Instruction was used to examine the teacher portion of the page in the teacher edition. Additionally the researcher explained how the Level of Complexity was used to examine information from both the student portion and the teacher portion of the page in the teacher edition of the textbook.

D. Summary of Experience

The information gained from attending the ALER 2014 Annual Conference in Delray Beach, Florida, enabled me to better serve the Arkansas Tech students in the College of Education and prepare them for their own classrooms. This conference was an excellent avenue for gaining and sharing knowledge of current education practices and teaching techniques and to keep abreast of the practices that are valuable to the students and interns in their future roles as teacher, facilitator, mentor, advisor, and evaluator.

E. Conclusion

In conclusion, when attending conferences, I discuss Arkansas Tech's Teacher Education Program and always gain new knowledge of other teacher education programs across the country. I also learn about various teaching ideas as well as new technology advances in education. This conference was a valuable source of information for my teaching.

I feel that my attendance at this conference benefits Arkansas Tech University in allowing me to improve my skills in preparing future teachers. Furthermore, each new experience and new contact in the teacher preparation field, serves to help keep me well informed about Teacher Education and current initiatives

Please see below a copy of the nametag from the ALER Conference:

