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Project VIEW: Visual Impairments Education in Writing

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Overview of the Project

The purpose of Project VIEW is to describe the writing practices used by TVIs and GENs to teach writing to students with VI, flexible factors associated with those writing practices. The project explore writing instructional practices among K-12 teachers serving students with visual impairments in Nebraska and aims to identify important factors that may influence those writing practices and student's academic success. These factors possible moderators of the relationship between factors and writing practices, and how the writing practices are associated with student outcomes. Aspects of "writing practices" we propose to examine include 1) Quantity of writing practices, 2) Quality of writing practices, and 3) Adaptations and accommodations of writing practices for students with VI. The long-term goal of this research is to improve writing outcomes for students with VI by developing an understanding of, and improving how, writing instruction is provided for these students.

Website: http://projectview.unl.edu/

Data Coding

We created item codes for all data. The codes are made of meaningful strings to tell the researchers what data is represented. For example:

TSDTDG01   T SD T DG01

The first letter indicates who the data is coming from (T = TVI, G = GEN, S = Student)

The next two letters indicate the data collection instrument (IN = interview, OB = observation, SD = survey demographics, SF = survey fall, SS = survey spring, WI = WIAT)

The fourth letter indicates who the data is primarily about (T = TVI, G = GEN, S = Student)

The final four characters indicate the item construct and place within the instrument. In the example above, DG01 indicates the item is about demographic (DG) and is the question on the survey (01).

Surveys

We developed two categories of surveys using Qualtrics: surveys to be sent to participants for data collection and surveys to be used by project personnel for data entry

- Surveys for Data Collection

  - We developed three surveys: Demographics, Fall, Spring. Two forms of every survey were created; one for the TVI and one for the GEN.

  - Demographics – short survey to be taken right after consent is obtained. Collects basic information about demographics, previous education, experience, and general beliefs

  - Fall – a short survey to be taken at the beginning of the school year with questions about collaboration

  - Spring – a longer survey to be taken near the end of the school year with questions about self-efficacy, beliefs about writing, use of writing practices, and collaboration

TSSGC03
7

37. How would you rate the **professionalism** of the collaboration with TEACHER 4 as it relates to writing?
- Very unprofessional
- Somewhat unprofessional
- Neither professional nor unprofessional
- Somewhat professional
- Very professional

- Surveys for Data Entry

  - Information that is received from conducting the interviews and observations will be entered into Qualtrics surveys by project personnel

Interviews

- Interviews are an hour-long Skype meeting with each general education teacher and teacher of visual impairments.

- While the interview is being conducted, a transcript is being formed through Skype.

- After the interview is conducted, the answers will be de-identified, coded into Qualtrics, and submitted for data.

Observations

- Observations are conducted by two people who observe for 3 minutes and code for 2 minutes. This will repeat until observation is complete.

- Before conducting observations, we practiced through watching videos of students with visual impairments in teacher with visual impairments classrooms.

- In the beginning, we used the app ISee through an iPad. When the data was transported after observations, we noticed a significant problem with reliability of the app.

- To conduct observations, we now use a printed template that is completed through pencil. After an observation is completed and checked for reliability, the data is then coded into Qualtrics and submitted.

Student's Writing and Scoring

- Students will take 4 WIAT III Written Expression Subtests
  - Alphabet Writing Fluency, Spelling, Sentence Composition, Essay Composition

- The data will be de-identified and scored through the WIATT. After this, the subtests will be checked for reliability twice before being submitted for data.

- Each researcher must go through WIATT training to be able to conduct and administer subtests and score them accurately.