Classroom Observation Strategies for Multi-Site Locations

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PURPOSE OF PRESENTATION

• Describe Udio

• Describe monthly classroom observations

• Share lessons learned and how data was used
What is Udio?

A Networked Reading Environment for Struggling Middle School Readers

http://cet.cast.org/
This is Sami!
The Problem


“Outside of school in 5th grade, a good reader may read as many words in 2 days as a poor reader does in an entire year.”

*Children, Teens, and Reading*
https://www.commonsensemedia.org/children-teens-and-reading-infographic
Udio’s Goals:
Udio is designed to build middle school students’ motivation and reading comprehension skills.

**Motivation**
Foster a passionate interest and investment in reading with...

- Access to high interest content
- Choice
- Developing and deepening interests
- Authentic social interactions
- “Just-Right” reading challenges

**Reading Comprehension**
Substantially improve reading comprehension skills with...

- Access to text (TTS, dictionary, translation)
- Interaction around text
- Writing in the service of reading
Partnerships

Scholastic
Science Friday
Yahoo!
Youth Writers Project
Facing History and Ourselves
Scientific American
SERP
The Max Warburg Courage Curriculum, Inc.
Junk Food: Should Schools Sell It?

Many young people now acknowledge that eating too much junk food is not good for their health. They realize that soda, chips, and candy have little nutritional value. They know that these foods have too much sugar, salt, fat and refined starches. Yet they continue to eat junk food regularly.

Many also admit that they do not incorporate enough exercise into their daily routines. There is a higher incidence of type 2 diabetes among youth in recent years. This has been linked to rising obesity rates. Diabetes is a disease in which either the body's insulin levels are too low or the body does not respond to the insulin level that is present. The digestive system breaks down food to make glucose, which provides the body's energy. Insulin is an important hormone that helps the body utilize glucose. Insulin is needed to transport glucose to muscles and other tissues of the body. Despite the link between diabetes and weight, some think that schools should keep selling soda and snacks. They argue that students should have a choice about what they eat. Selling snacks also generates money for schools. Other people think that schools make junk food too accessible. They believe that schools should cooperate with health professionals on initiatives aimed at changing kids' eating and fitness habits. For example, schools could fill snack machines with more nutritious foods.
This story explains how friction makes a car move. A car's wheels may turn, but it won't move unless the wheels have something, like the ground, to move against. Even though the ground does not move, it provides the force, friction, needed to move the car. Friction is when surfaces rub together. The greater the spin and the ground resists the two surfaces, the more the car moves.

What's your reaction?
choose one or more words to describe your reaction

- engaging
- interesting
- frustrating
- confusing
- sad
- boring
- dull
- good
- calming
- curious

see others' reactions
Junk in Schools?
by student1

A difficult choice! Here are two different opinions about schools selling junk food. What do you think?

Students should have a choice about what they eat. Selling snacks also generates money for schools.
Source: Junk Food: Should Schools Sell It?

Schools should cooperate with health professionals on initiatives aimed at changing kids’ eating and fitness habits.
Source: Junk Food: Should Schools Sell It?

On one hand, it is important for students to make their own decisions about food and health.

On the other hand, it is important for students to learn healthy habits in school so that they can practice them outside of school.

Though there is some evidence to support both sides, I believe it is important to offer healthy choices for students so that they can gain healthy habits and make good decisions outside of school. What do you think?
Efficacy Study 2015-2016

Udio Library
Full Udio
Why Observation?

- Other data sources
- The need for “eyes on the ground”
- Ideas explored
Monthly Classroom Observations: The Observers

- Identification and hiring of observers
- Training the observers
Training Video
Monthly Classroom Observations: The Observers

- Supervision of the observers:
  - On-going review
  - Manual
  - Group emails
• The form:
  • One survey per observer

• 3 Sections:
  • Intro page
  • Student/Teacher Behavior pages
  • Conclusion page
**The Observation Form**

**About the Observation**

* 1. Observer name (first and last):

* 2. Date of Observation:

   MM / DD / YYYY

* 3. School district:

**Udio observation protocol - Training Version 2.0**

**Observation Interval 1 - the First 10 Minutes**

* 8. Observation start time:

   hh : mm AM/PM

   Time:

* 9. Udio class location:

* 10. Number of students: (the # of permissioned students should not exceed the number of students in the Udio session)

   Number of students with permission:

   Total number of students in the Udio session:
The Observations

• Number completed
• Merging the data sets
• Dealing with incompletes
Lessons Learned

- Find the right people
- Start everyone at the same time
- Build in more time than you think
- Be prepared for differing supervision needs and methods
- Have everyone work in the same survey
Informing Analysis

- Filling in gaps in other sources of data

What’s happening in these classes, where there are improvements?
Informing Analysis

• Leading to new, unexpected analyses

• Providing an on-the-ground sense of what Udio looks like in classrooms

• Shaping future implementation
CONTACT INFORMATION

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