



Case Study: A Sixth Grade Class Goes From Struggling to Outperforming Their Peers

Background

Courtney Mays is a 6th grade teacher in Ohio who faced challenges teaching writing to her students. Her students lacked formal writing experience and struggled to write cohesive paragraphs. She needed a writing curriculum that could help her students improve their writing skills and prepare them for state testing.

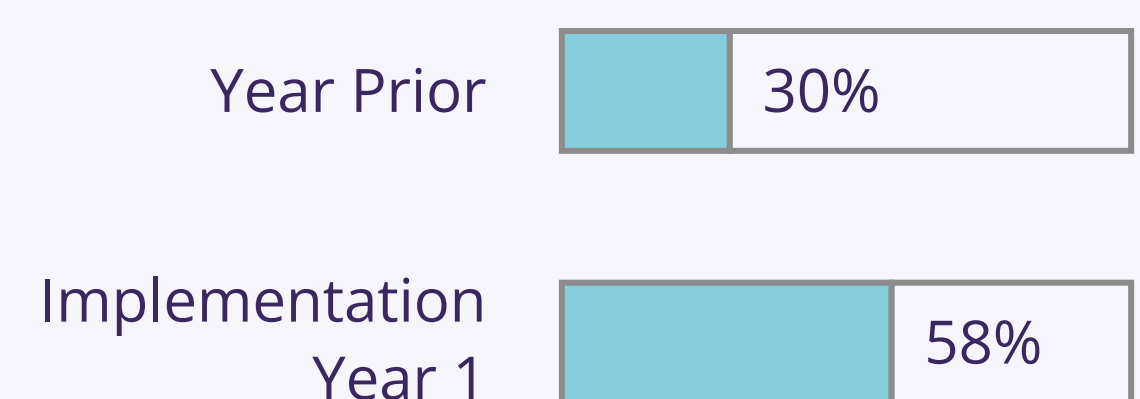
Implementation

Courtney discovered the Simplify Writing® curriculum, which provided her with a comprehensive program for teaching writing. She was impressed by the curriculum's inclusiveness, which includes a wealth of resources and straightforward lesson plans. "I always had a lot of say in my curriculum, so I was trusted to do what I felt was right for my students," says Mays. "When I stumbled upon Simplify Writing, I knew I needed this for my students." She implemented the curriculum and observed a significant improvement in her students' writing skills. "The growth I saw in them over the year was truly amazing," she told us.

Outcome

By the time state testing came around, Mays' students were comfortable writing a 5 to 6 paragraph essay, including an argumentative essay with a counterclaim. The students had learned how to write a polished paragraph and were fully prepared for the ELA test. Mays was excited to tell us that "In the year prior to implementing Simplify Writing, I had about 30% of my students pass the ELA state test. The year I implemented Simplify Writing, my passing percentage went up to 58%. I can say very confidently that their writing was the reason for this." Essay writing is only one piece of the ELA test, but their mastery of it brought up their overall scores significantly. Her students outperformed their peers in writing, thanks to the Simplify Writing® curriculum.

ELA Passing Scores



The state ELA test assesses reading and writing ability. Although Simplify Writing® does not include direct reading instruction, our systematic writing lessons increase mastery of both reading and writing skills.