A survey was administered in September 1994 to 226 students enrolled in reading courses at Bishop State Community College to gain information about the students' reading habits and experiences and their expectations from the courses in which they were enrolled. Results indicated that: (1) math was chosen by 29% of subjects as their favorite subject but by 38% of the subjects as their least favorite high school subject; (2) fiction was the favorite type of book to read; (3) "Martin" was the favorite television show; (4) sports was the favorite hobby, and reading was the second-favorite hobby; (5) 42% were generally positive about reading textbooks; (6) 46% took the course because they wanted to improve comprehension; (7) 88 students thought they should study more; and (8) most students would prefer to work on assignments with one partner. (The survey instrument is attached.) (RS)
An Analysis and Discussion of a Reading Survey of Students' Backgrounds and Expectations

Presented to Reading and Study Skills Faculty of the Alabama College System

by

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An Analysis and Discussion of
a Reading Survey of Students’ Backgrounds and Expectations

A survey was administered in September 1994 to 226 students enrolled in reading (RDG) courses at Bishop State Community College to gain information about the students’ reading habits and experiences and their expectations from the courses in which they were enrolled. The results of the surveys were analyzed in an attempt to provide instructors with a better understanding of their students, many of whom typically resist being placed in developmental reading courses. Students were not asked to provide demographic information regarding race, sex, age, or income level. Rather, the information sought is an attempt to improve the teaching-learning experiences by allowing students to share their backgrounds in reading as well as their ideas on what a college reading course should do for them.

Analysis

Part I
1. What was your favorite high school subject?
   - Math 66 (29%)
   - English 58 (26%)
   - Science 50 (22%)
   - Social Studies 30 (13%)
   - Other 22 (10%)

2. What was your least favorite high school subject?
   - Math 86 (38%)
   - English 48 (21%)
   - Social Studies 46 (20%)
   - Science 24 (11%)
   - Other 22 (10%)

3. What was your high school grade point average?
   - 3.5 - 4.0 20 (9%)
   - 3.0 - 3.49 54 (24%)
   - 2.5 - 2.99 74 (33%)
   - 2.0 - 2.49 60 (27%)
   - below 2.0 2 (1%)
   - Don’t remember/No response 16 (7%)
4. What is the best book you have read?

The top ten (10) responses were (number indicates response)
The Bible 15  Lord of the Flies 9
Where the Red Fern Grows 8  Animal Farm 7
Little Women 7  Autobiography of Malcolm X 6
Disappearing Acts 6  I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings 5
Silence of the Lambs 4  Waiting to Exhale 4

5. What is your favorite type of book to read?

The top five (5) responses (number indicates responses)
Fiction 28  Romance 25  Mystery 24
Suspense 19  Nonfiction 14

6. What magazine do you read most often?

The top five (5) responses (number indicates responses)
Ebony 39  Jet 30  Sports Illustrated 26
Reader’s Digest 21  Seventeen 14

7. What is your favorite television show?

The top five (5) responses (number indicates responses)
"Martin" 53  "Roseanne" 21  "Fresh Prince" 16
"Rescue 911" 13  "Married with Children" 10

8. Do you own a library card?

Yes 152 (67%)  No 74 (33%)

9. Do you own a dictionary?

Yes 220 (97%)  No 6 (3%)

10. What are your hobbies?

The top five (5) responses (number indicates responses)
Sports 71  Reading 28  Music 21
Talking on the Phone 19  Shopping 16
Part II

1. What do you want to learn in this course?
   - How to improve vocabulary 81 (36%)
   - How to improve comprehension 104 (46%)
   - How to improve rate 63 (28%)

2. How do you learn vocabulary terms?
   - Memorization 78 (35%)
   - Writing them over and over 59 (26%)
   - Flash cards 33 (15%)
   - Word association 12 (5%)

3. How do you study for a test?
   - Go over notes and book 187 (83%)
   - With a partner 55 (24%)
   - Flash cards 23 (10%)

4. Briefly describe your experiences with reading textbooks.
   - Generally positive 96 (42%)
   - Generally negative 71 (31%)
   - Other 59 (26%)
Part III

1. In relation to your high school grade point average, do you think your college grade point average will be
   higher  134 (59%)
   about the same  84 (37%)
   lower  8 (4%)

2. Regarding speed or rate, do you think you should
   read faster  126 (56%)
   keep the same rate  86 (38%)
   read slower  14 (6%)

3. Regarding the amount of time you spend studying, do you think you should
   study more  198 (88%)
   study about the same  26 (12%)
   study less  0 (0%)

4. Would you prefer working on assignments
   alone  74 (33%)
   with one partner  100 (44%)
   in a small group  48 (21%)

5. Do you prefer
   reading aloud  28 (12%)
   reading silently  113 (50%)
   both  81 (36%)
   neither (write-in response)  4 (2%)
Reading Survey

Name __________________________ Date ____________________

This survey is designed to gain information about you and your reading habits in an effort to help you improve your reading skills. Please be as honest and specific as possible.

Part I

1. What was your favorite high school subject? ____________________________
2. What was your least favorite high school subject? _________________
3. What was your high school grade point average? _________________
4. What is the best book you have read? ______________________________________
5. What is your favorite type of book to read? ____________________________
6. What magazine do you read most often? ____________________________
7. What is your favorite television show? ____________________________
8. Do you own a library card? ______________________________________
9. Do you own a dictionary? ______________________________________
10. What are your hobbies? ______________________________________

Part II

1. What do you want to learn in this course?

2. How do you learn vocabulary terms?

3. How do you study for a test?

4. Briefly describe your experiences with reading textbooks.
Part III

1. In relation to your high school grade point average, do you think your college grade point average will be
   higher about the same lower

2. Regarding speed or rate, do you think you should
   read faster keep the same rate read slower

3. Regarding the amount of time you spend studying, do you think you should
   study more study about the same study less

4. Would you prefer working on assignments
   alone with one partner in a small group

5. Do you prefer
   reading aloud reading silently both

Part IV

Feel free to make any comments below that will help your instructor work with you.
Part III

1. In relation to your high school grade point average, do you think your college grade point average will be
   higher          about the same          lower

2. Regarding speed or rate, do you think you should
   read faster     keep the same rate     read slower

3. Regarding the amount of time you spend studying, do you think you should
   study more      study about the same    study less

4. Would you prefer working on assignments
   alone           with one partner       in a small group

5. Do you prefer
   reading aloud   reading silently       both

Part IV

Feel free to make any comments below that will help your instructor work with you.
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Name ___________________________ Date _________________________

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5. What is your favorite type of book to read? __________________
6. What magazine do you read most often? ______________________
7. What is your favorite television show? ________________________
8. Do you own a library card? _________________________________
9. Do you own a dictionary? _________________________________
10. What are your hobbies? __________________________________

Part II

1. What do you want to learn in this course?

2. How do you learn vocabulary terms?

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