

**Study Technology
Project
in an
Inner-City
High School,
Memphis, Tennessee**

In 2001 a grant was obtained from Memphis City School Board for a pilot program to introduce Study Technology to the Memphis Schools. Additional funding from local businessmen and community leaders was used to purchase a set of *Study Skills for Life* books and workbooks. The subjects were ninth grade students in a remedial English class. Many had a continuous history of discipline problems, juvenile delinquency and school failure. Approximately 80% fell at or near the poverty level. As the project high school was not achieving mandated State testing levels, the school was under scrutiny by the State of Tennessee Education Department as well as the Memphis Board of Education. The school had increased testing scores over the prior three years, but still remained below the required testing levels. Academic failure was commonplace. Teacher and parent frustrations were evident.

Project Parents were notified by letter that *Study Skills for Life* based on L. Ron Hubbard's work was to be introduced to students. The Study Technology concept was introduced to the faculty at a faculty meeting. Three teachers were recruited and trained in Study Technology.

All students in ninth grade remedial English classes were invited to participate. Fifteen students (approximately one half) participated and completed the *Study Skills for Life* course as part of their in-class activity. All students started during the second 6 weeks in the first semester. Fourteen of the 15 students completed the course in six weeks. The final student completed a few weeks later. Several of the students attended an afterschool study period as well as the in-class training.

Academic Results

The table shows first semester grade point averages (GPA's) for both the students who did the study skills training and those who did not. Grade point averages do not include the remedial English class itself, for which no grade was given.

The GPA range for the students who completed

Study Skills for Life was 1.0 to 3.0, with an average of 1.9. The GPA range for the other students in the same class was 0.0 to 1.4, with an average of 0.7.

Reduction in Disciplinary Actions

It is evident that the Study Technology training produced a sharp reduction in disciplinary problems among students who received the training. For example, during the 12 weeks before Study Technology training there were 47 disciplinary actions on file for those students. During the 12 weeks after, there were 27 disciplinary actions on file, a 43% reduction.

The improvement for the 15 trained students had a positive effect on the entire class. In the same period of time disciplinary actions were reduced for the control students by 34%.

First Semester Grade Point Averages (GPA)	
Experimental Group	Control Group
1.6	1.4
2.2	1.4
3.0	0.0
2.0	0.0
2.0	0.0
2.3	1.2
2.2	1.0
2.0	0.7
1.6	0.6
1.0	1.2
1.7	0.6
2.0	1.2
1.7	0.7
1.0	0.2
2.2	1.0
Average: 1.9	Average: .075



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