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## Book and Buddies Mentorship

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# Books And Buddies Mentorship

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## Introduction

## Social Issue Research

## Service Learning & Making a Difference

### History and Purpose of Spread the Word Nevada

- Started in 2001 to aid low-income areas
- Now has 53 schools associated with the organization
- Books and Buddies started to offer one-on-one mentorship to struggling readers.
- Goals include increasing:
  - ↳ Reading comprehension
  - ↳ Oral reading skills
  - ↳ Over all reading Proficiency (Spread the Word Nevada, 2001)

### Community Service Paradigm

- Spread the Word Nevada serves to create social change
- Spread the word contains elements of all three service paradigms (Morton, 1995):
  - ↳ The Charity paradigm is served through
    - ↳ Donations of books to the organization
    - ↳ Donations of time to sort and clean books
    - ↳ Monetary donations to the organization
  - ↳ The Project paradigm is served through:
    - ↳ Mentorship
    - ↳ Service site administration
  - ↳ The social Change Paradigm is served through:
    - ↳ Spread the Word Nevadas overall goal of Increasing childhood literacy

### Childhood Literacy Research

- Factors of Illiteracy Include:
  - ↳ Amount of schooling attained by parents
  - ↳ Lack of emphasis on the importance of reading
  - ↳ Lack of books in the home
  - ↳ Poor living conditions
  - ↳ Having a learning disability
- Factors that are directly effected by literacy:
  - ↳ Involvement in Democratic processes
  - ↳ Social mobility
  - ↳ Economic growth of a country
  - ↳ Recidivism rates
    - ↳ “85% of all juveniles who come into contact with the juvenile justice system are functionally illiterate” (Music 2012)
    - ↳ Of the 70%of adults that gain literacy in programs only 16% become repeat offenders (Music 2012)



### Current and Ideal State of literacy

- Reardon, Valentino, and Shores state that, “students from low-income families enter high school with average literacy skills five years behind those of high-income students” (2012, p. 17)
- “ECLS-K data indicate that socioeconomic disparities in reading achievement are much larger than racial and ethnic gaps” (2012, p. 26).
- Childhood literacy directly effects literacy in adulthood; thus, increasing childhood literacy could decrease not only recidivism rates, but maybe even reduce crime rates.
- The ideal state would be having a country where no one is illiterate and one where equitable treatment leads to equal educational outcomes.

### My Approach to the Issue

- I want to continue working with Books and Buddies and I would like to support organizations like them in the future.
- Working with organizations like them I can help ensure my future high school students get the best education even before they enter my classroom.

### Service to community

- Helping young minds to become thoughtful, reflective, and analytical
- Working to create a more literate future

### Semester Reflection

- What made working at Books and Buddies multiple time so great:
  - ↳ First you get to see the growth of your buddies
  - ↳ Second you get to form a bond with your buddies
  - ↳ Third you get to work with other awesome kids when their mentors are absent
  - ↳ Lastly, they make a difference in you

### Differences in My Own View

- There is a difference between being told how poverty can affect a child's education and seeing it first hand.
- Understanding how others can end up on a bad path, not because they don't want to succeed but because there are many obstacles in their path.

### Differences I Made for the Site

- Showing up to read with my buddies every Friday I didn't have observations
- Working with children who don't have mentors yet

### Personal/Professional Learning

- I like working with elementary age children
- I can teach
- Tutoring is a rewarding experience for both parties
- The world is not always as black and white as it used to seem

### Personal Change, Efforts and Outcomes

- Serve genuinely lest the effort become arduous
- With genuine effort both those served and those doing the service can improve together

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