

## **Towson University Study Summary: Improving the Motivation and Performance of Struggling Writers Using the Write More Program**

For the third year, graduate education students from Towson University have partnered with Write More to perform action research studies using the Write More Program in the classroom. The Towson teachers' assignment was threefold: to develop a research question that could be tested in the classroom, to design the research methodology and to collect data pre and post research.

The Towson teachers all teach full-time in inner-city Baltimore schools. For this study, the teachers chose to work together to implement the study and to write one research paper. The teachers were based at different schools and different levels - elementary, middle and high school. The research question they developed was: *Improving the Motivation and Performance of Struggling Writers Using the Write More Program*.

At the elementary and high school level, the teachers used the *Write More Essential Set* which includes a teacher resource guide, writing portfolios, a teacher activity book, organizers, rubrics, games and posters. At the middle school level, the teacher chose to use the *Write More Greek Adventures Explorer Writing Camp* which includes a teacher's guide, teacher lessons plans, portfolios, organizer and games that incorporate writing while learning about Ancient Greece.

The study lasted 4-6 weeks at the elementary and high school level and six days at the middle school level. This study was the most comprehensive yet performed on Write More programs and curriculum. Unlike past studies, the students were required to use all of the products comprising the Essentials set for their particular grade level as well as the complete Explorer Camp (the first time research was conducted on the Explorer camp products). Additionally, the pre and post testing done on the students was significantly more substantial than those done in the past.

All the teachers agree that the results of using the Write More materials to improve motivation and performance of struggling writers were "extremely positive". At the elementary level, "both the writing ability and the motivation levels increased dramatically". At the middle school level, "all

students improved in writing ability and motivation". And at the high school level, the teacher states that the Write More Program "not only helped students improve writing ability but more importantly, helped them build confidence".