

# Arkansas Reading Association

an affiliate of the  
International Reading Association

## **STUDIES AND RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATION**

Current members of the **Arkansas Reading Association** are invited to submit proposals for a Studies and Research Grant not to exceed \$750 for the upcoming school year. Proposals should be written for classroom research projects in instructional methods, non-traditional approaches, parent involvement, independent reading, book publishing, or new techniques and/or strategies, for example. Grant funds may be used for such items as children's trade books, consumable materials, audiovisual materials and equipment. Activities and expenditures used for literacy materials will be given priority.

Six copies of the proposal should be submitted to *ARA Studies and Research Committee Chair*. The proposal must be postmarked no later than **February 1**. The proposal should not exceed three pages, single-spaced. Include the following information in the order given below:

Project Title  
Name of Applicant  
Current Position  
Business Address  
Business Telephone/Fax  
Home Address  
Home Telephone  
Local Reading Council Association  
IRA Membership Number  
Rationale for Project  
Description of Project  
Budget  
Project Timeline

All applicants for the grant will receive notice of the selected recipient(s) in April.. This will enable the winner(s) to implement the proposed project during the fall semester of the upcoming year. A project and budget report (including receipts) is due November 1. The winner(s) will be recognized at the annual ARA conference in November, and will be expected to present the project in a conference session. Recipients are also encouraged to submit an article about the project to *The ARA Newsletter*.

**Note: Applicants must be a member of local/ARA and IRA for one year prior to deadline. Applicants may apply for multiple awards, but are only eligible for one ARA award.**

**DEADLINE: POSTMARKED (or electronically submitted) BY FEBRUARY 1**

Return to: **ARA Studies and Research Committee Chair, electronic submission preferred.**

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## STUDIES AND RESEARCH GRANT SELECTION CRITERIA

In keeping with the intent of this grant, the criteria used to assess grant applications stresses the importance of using research to guide classroom activities. The collection of data to critically examine the effects of proposed methods on student learning is also stressed. The following criteria will be used to judge the merits of grant applications:

### Application Packet (10%)

- All requested information is provided and clearly labeled or identified.

### Rationale for Project (30%)

- The rationale for the project provides a substantive review of the professional literature supporting the proposed activity.
- Literature used to support the practice is drawn from a sufficient number of *recent* articles from *peer-reviewed* journals or professional texts. Examples of peer-reviewed articles from *peer-reviewed* journals include *The Reading Teacher*, *Reading Research Quarterly*, *Language Arts*, etc.
- All articles included in the rationale are accurately cited in the body of the text as well as in a reference list at the end of the project narrative.

### Description of the project (40%)

The following sections are clearly labeled or used as *subheadings* to organize the project description:

- Statement of the problem. The *reason for conducting this study or project* is clearly explained using examples from the teacher's own experience or from the professional literature.
- Project Implementation. Procedures for implementing the project or study are thoroughly described including steps necessary in planning for the project as well as the day-to-day implementation.
- Data collection methods. This section delineates specific measures (pre/post tests, running records, surveys etc.) to be used in determining the impact of the project on student learning.

### Budget (10%)

- All anticipated expenditures are listed with an estimated cost for each item.
- All narrative accompanies the budget explaining how the items listed will be used to carry out the project.

### Project Timeline (10%)

- Each step of the project is listed chronologically.
- Timeline includes project planning and setup as well as data collection and analysis.
- Timeline includes plans for submitting proposals for presenting the project at the ARA annual conference. (Deadline for Call for Proposals is listed on the ARA website.)