

Research Study Project: Literacy and Writing Skills in Homeschooled vs. Public-Schooled Students

Intro:

Writing and literacy skills are one of the key elements in one's education and upbringing. I would like to research and analyze the differences between those who are raised in a public school setting and those who are homeschooled. The reason I would like to conduct this study is because there is a lack of research studying the literacy and writing outcomes of those who are homeschooled. Previous studies from research I have completed showed that homeschooled students had a lower literacy level and writing skills than those enrolled in a public school. Studying the skills and methods of those who are homeschooled and public-schooled will be necessary for this research. This study will explore the skills and methodologies of both groups to provide a clearer picture of their educational outcomes.

Methods:

Most research studies I have previously reviewed regarding this topic involved about 50-100 students per classification. In totality, this study will be composed of 400 participants. I would like to involve 80 students from a public school in a wealthier area and 80 from a more city and lower income area. In addition to those 160 students, 80 homeschooled students from a wealthier area and 80 from a lower-income setting are what should be a part of this study. Students' education levels will range from third grade through seventh. Additionally, contacts will be made with the parents or guardians of the homeschooled participants to discuss and understand their educational curriculums. An interview-like conversation will be conducted with

the teacher, who is usually the parent of these students. This interview will explore their curriculum choices, the resources they utilize, and their perspectives on effective literacy instruction and teachings. Teachers and or public school administration in charge of curriculums will be interviewed and asked to describe their ways of teaching writing and literacy skills in their schools. A simple survey will initially be given to relax anybody participating nerves.

Following the icebreaker students will be asked to take a standardized test for their grade level. Students will be given an allotted amount of time to complete the test. These tests will consist of real-life scenarios that will require them to use their literacy and writing skills. By using this mixed methodology approach of research, we would end with both qualitative and quantitative data. With that being said this study is sure to provide a broader understanding of literacy and writing skill outcomes for those who are home-schooled versus those who attend a public school.

Results :

I believe that the conclusion of this research will result in the findings of home-schooled students excelling more in their writing and literacy skills than those who attend public schools. A scholarly article had a similar finding showing that “The children who received structured homeschooling were superior to the children enrolled in public school across all seven subtests”(Ray, Brian D). Such results suggest that the individualized attention and tailored instruction often found in homeschooling can significantly enhance students’ literacy outcomes. As much as teachers in public schools say that they love their students, they are not able to replicate the level of investment and attention that parents or guardians provide.

Parents or guardians who chose homeschooling for their children's education are making a sacrifice themselves, and are going to give it their all. Many homeschooling parents research educational strategies and new curriculums, providing them with the ability to teach using methods that are best for their child's learning style. I think that we will find with this research design that parents are going to be more knowledgeable about the writing and literacy skills being taught than the teachers being paid in a public school. Overall, the findings from this study will contribute valuable information on the differences in literacy and writing skills of homeschooling compared to traditional public schooling students.

Discussion :

In this consistently changing world that we are all a part of, it is important to know alternative ways to do most things. Getting an education is one of the most important things from an early age. Through this research, we will be able to come up with results that will either support or show evidence of why public or private schools are the better option for your child. Information on literacy and writing skills from different demographics will also be brought to light through the process of this research. By considering different demographic backgrounds, we can better understand how access to resources, parental involvement, and educational philosophies impact student outcomes. Consistent with Tamara Lucas & Sandra R. Schecter's research we will see that public school students have some disadvantages and discrepancies in their students results due to the lack of more personal work and teachings. Ultimately, this study will contribute to a more informed discussion about the best educational choices for children, empowering parents and guardians to make decisions that align with their children's unique needs and potential.

Sources:

- Aram, Dorit, et al. "A Comparison between Homeschooled and Formally Schooled Kindergartners: Children's Early Literacy, Mothers' Beliefs, and Writing Mediation." *Reading Psychology*, vol. 37, no. 7, 24 Mar. 2016, pp. 995–1024, <https://doi.org/10.1080/02702711.2016.1157537>. Accessed 8 Dec. 2019.
- Knoblich, Teagan R. "Teaching Writing: Genre Lessons for Teaching Writing in the Homeschool High School Classroom and Beyond." *Cornerstone: A Collection of Scholarly and Creative Works for Minnesota State University, Mankato*, 2019, cornerstone.lib.mnsu.edu/etds/939/ . Accessed 24 Oct. 2024.
- Lucas, Tamara, and Sandra R. Schecter. "Literacy Education and Diversity: Toward Equity in the Teaching of Reading and Writing." *The Urban Review*, vol. 24, no. 2, June 1992, pp. 85–104, <https://doi.org/10.1007/bf01239354> . Accessed 26 Oct. 2020.
- Marzluf, Philip. "Literacy, Home Schooling, and Articulations of the Public and the Literacy, Home Schooling, and Articulations of the Public and the Private ." *Community Literacy Journal*, vol. 4, no. Article 6, 2010.
- Moreau, Kathi. *HOME SCHOOLED vs. PUBLIC SCHOOLED 1 SPECIFIC DIFFERENCES in the EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES of THOSE STUDENTS WHO ARE HOME SCHOOLED vs. STUDENTS in a TRADITIONAL SCHOOL SETTING*. 2012.
- Ray, Brian D. "Home School Graduates and Their Mothers Talk about Literacy Instruction." *National Home Education Research Institute*, 10 Apr. 2005, www.nheri.org/home-school-researcher-home-school-graduates-and-their-mothers-talk-about-literacy-instruction/ . Accessed 24 Oct. 2024.