March 23, 2020

Dear Service-Learning Champions:

On the pages that follow, please find a note and details about a unique service opportunity from Dr. Kenneth J. Varner, former LSU faculty and current friend of our program. The UNLV College of Education and Zeiter Literacy Center are asking people to help create homemade, engaging “read-alouds” for youth out of school due to the COVID-19 crisis.

If you are faculty and have questions about implementing this service project in your course, let us know (ccell@lsu.edu). The program is not just for service-learning classes, however: LSU Engaged Citizens (ECP) students looking for direct service hours, community volunteers, and any person wanting to make an impact from home are equally welcome to participate!

All the best to you and yours,

Sarah Becker, Ph.D.
Director, CCELL
REMOTE SERVICE-LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

The UNLV College of Education along with the Zeiter Literacy Center want to ensure there are plenty of read-alouds made available to children and families, in English and Spanish (and really German, French, Farsi, Italian, Japanese, Chinese too, language doesn't matter). We know parents are super stressed and kids miss school time reading aloud.

If you could do a read aloud, record it, and send it to us for this project we would be very grateful. Great if adults do it, but we would love it if older kids also did the reading – so if you have kids who are bored this is great for them and helps others too... We are building a Zeiter subsite we will make live beginning next week, these read-alouds and other resources will be available.

Dr. Kenneth J. Varner
Associate Professor of Literacy
Director, Gayle A. Zeiter Literacy Center
Department of Teaching and Learning
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

**Read Aloud Directions:**

1. Select a read-aloud picture book suitable for a student in PK-12. Please select a book in English or Spanish. These can be fiction or nonfiction (OR pair related fiction and nonfiction texts).
2. Read the book all the way through prior to recording.
3. Determine 3-5 key comprehension questions that could guide students’ understanding of the story. Mark in the book where you will ask the questions and provide a brief pause for students to think about the answer.
4. Set up your computer, laptop, or phone to record. Begin the recording. Introduce the title, author, illustrator, and appropriate grade level range of the story.
5. Record yourself reading the story. Make sure we can see the pictures (and hopefully the print). Make sure to use good voice inflection.
6. As you read, pause to ask your comprehension questions. Remember, you do not want these questions to interrupt the flow of the story. Choose questions that are pertinent to students maintaining comprehension.
7. Recommend a follow-up activity aligned to the story (e.g., draw a picture of the problem, write a different ending to the story).
8. End the video.
9. Send your video to danica.hays@unlv.edu or kenneth.varner@unlv.edu – Share your contact info, name, and where you are from so that we can set it up as a bit of an interactive to let kids see where in the world readers are from...If you have ideas to extend the reading feel free to share and we will get it uploaded.

We want to go live middle of next week, but will take videos anytime, so PLEASE consider helping out.

**Note from the CCELL team:** Please send your video to the Center for Community Engagement, Learning, and Leadership (ccell@lsu.edu) also – we would love to share stories about the LSU community participating in this amazing project!

www.lsu.edu/ccell
ccell@lsu.edu
Last updated March 23, 2020