

Word Power!

How Vocabulary Instruction Impacts the 10th Grade Biology Class

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Introduction and Background

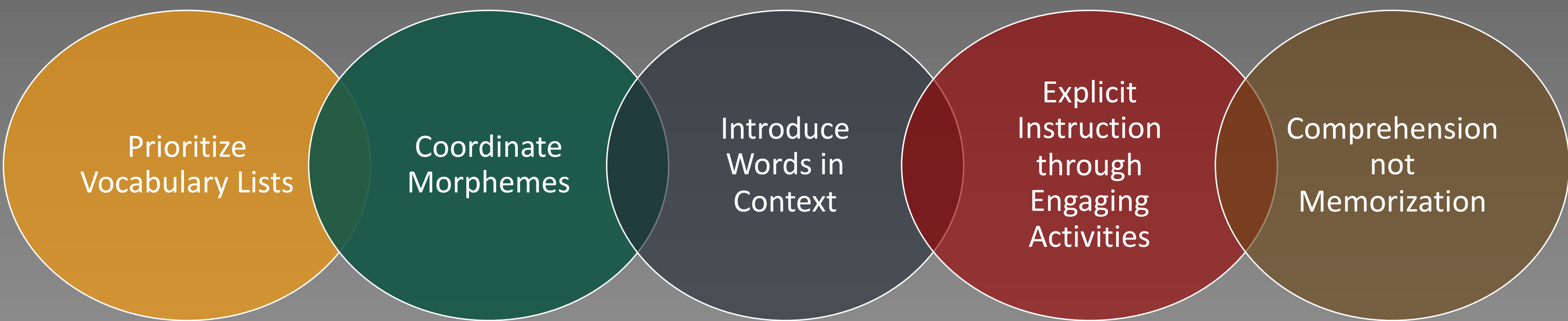
- Words have power to change people and change the world. Words can protect us. Words impart knowledge, power, and confidence.
- Vocabulary instruction is often boring, ineffective, and time consuming.
- I began to wonder, “How can I teach vocabulary in an engaging and interesting way and teach students the tools for learning vocabulary?”
- My purpose in conducting this classroom research project was to make realistic and sustainable changes to my vocabulary instruction using purposeful, effective, and engaging methods.

Research Questions

What is the effect on student content assessment scores when vocabulary words are prioritized and taught through engaging activities in a 10th grade biology class?

To what degree are the content scores impacted in comparing proficient readers to below-proficient readers?	How do these activities impact student attitude about participation in biology?	What is the impact of these changes on the teacher?
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Treatment

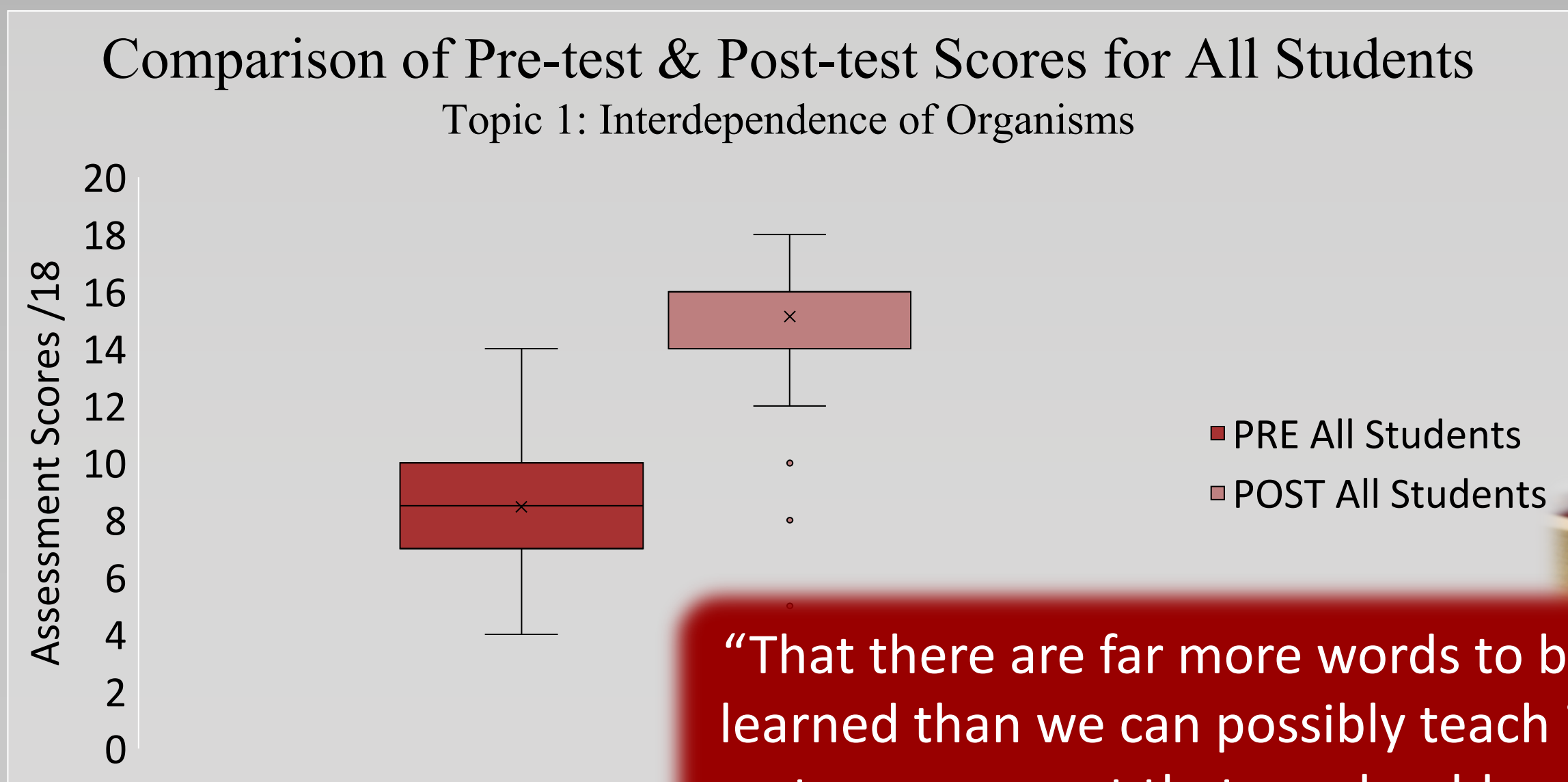


Data Collection

	Data Collection Instruments			
Quantitative	Pre/Post Tests	STAR Reading Scores	Unit Content Assessments	Semester 1 Final Exam
Qualitative	Student Surveys	Teacher Journal		

Data and Analysis

- The research data indicates explicit vocabulary instruction resulted in an increase of content assessment scores and improved student attitude about biology class.

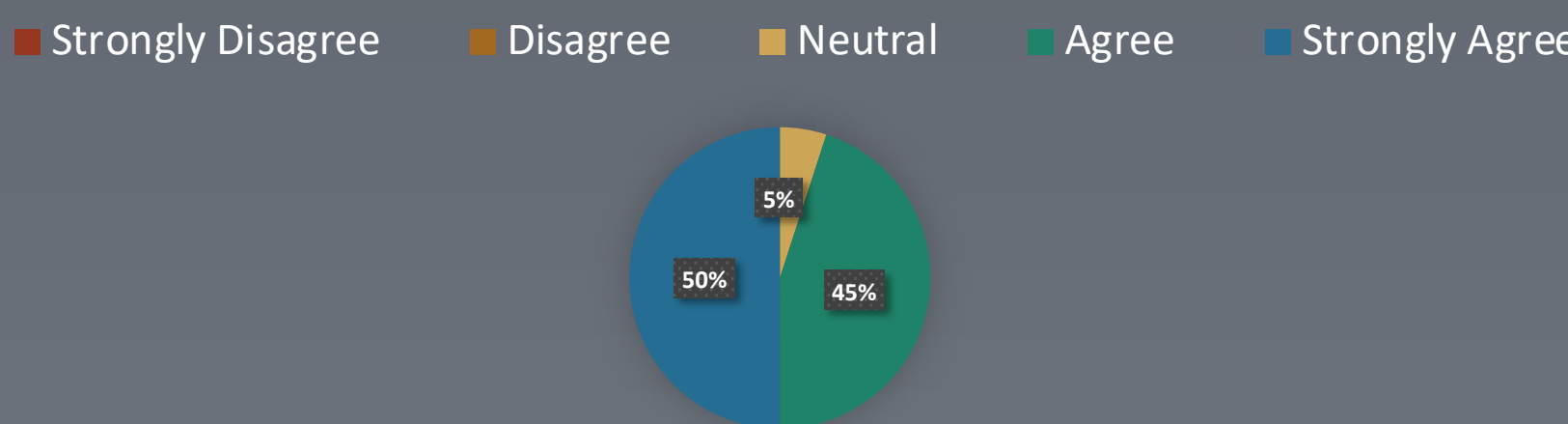


“That there are far more words to be learned than we can possibly teach is not an argument that we should not teach any of them” (Beck, 1987).

Data and Analysis cont.

- Assessment scores increased by an average of 35% during my classroom research.
- Students scored an 88% average on the Final. Proficient students averaged a 92% compared to the below-proficient average of 82%.
- It was found that 89% of students responded that they liked biology following treatment compared to 74%.

Focusing on vocabulary in class helped me do better on my quizzes and assessments.



Conclusion and Value

- My research established a student-attitude in my class that literacy and words were important.
- The changes were realistic, sustainable, and fun.
- It caused me to be more reflective, focused, and intentional as a teacher.

Student Quotes

“It was easy for me to learn the vocabulary the way we did it, as well as being enjoyable and memorable.”

“I enjoy biology because I think it’s a fun class that intrigues me every day.”

“I love learning new words because it makes me feel empowered.”