

Feature Article: What are OTRs and Why Should You be Using Them?

by Dr. Gwen Berry, University of Louisville

Defining OTRs

When I first heard the term “opportunity to respond (OTR),” it sounded technical, and I wasn’t exactly sure what it meant. As it turns out, there is a significant body of research indicating that when teachers engage students by giving them frequent opportunities to respond, all kinds of wonderful things happen. Dr. Terry Scott, Director of the Center for Instructional and Behavioral Research in Schools, notes that different types of OTRs have three things in common: first, they are delivered by the teacher, second, they are focused on the curriculum, and third, they ask students to think and do!

10,00 Data Sets from Classrooms in Kentucky

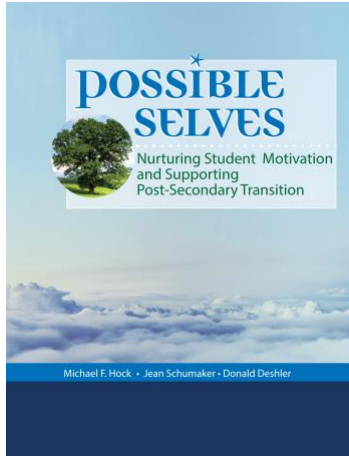
For the last 5 years, I’ve had the privilege of working with Dr. Terry Scott, and I’ve been impressed by the fact that he has collected over 10,000 data sets from observations in 6,730 elementary classrooms, 1,544 middle school classrooms, and 1,983 high school classrooms across the state of Kentucky. This data was collected by a team of highly trained coders who collect data on both group and individual OTRs including verbal responses, choral responses, use of response cards, manipulatives and gestures, and peer discussion. Classrooms are coded for 15-minute time periods when teachers are delivering content, and then a report is generated with easy-to-understand graphs showing overall OTR rates as well as group and individual OTR rates and shared with teachers. After analyzing this large data set, Dr. Scott and his colleagues have drawn several major conclusions.

3 Major Findings

[Click here to read the full article](#)

SIM News

- **New Adolescent Literacy Leadership Course** - Typically, around February, schools begin planning for the next school year: analyzing data, considering new initiatives, selecting new evidence-based practices, planning for professional learning, etc. If you are supporting a team or teams of decision-makers through this planning process, you may like to participate in this opportunity. Three experienced SIM Professional Developers are co-facilitating a six-week online course (meet once per week for 90 minutes each session) to guide teams through key planning decisions. **As a SIM Professional Developer, this course could complement your work and assist with planning for and engaging stakeholders in the conversation to support adolescent literacy instruction.** [Check out this flyer and webpage for more details](#), and consider attending the Informational Webinar on November 14th from 11 am – 12 pm central time. If you can't attend the webinar, the recording will be shared with those who register.

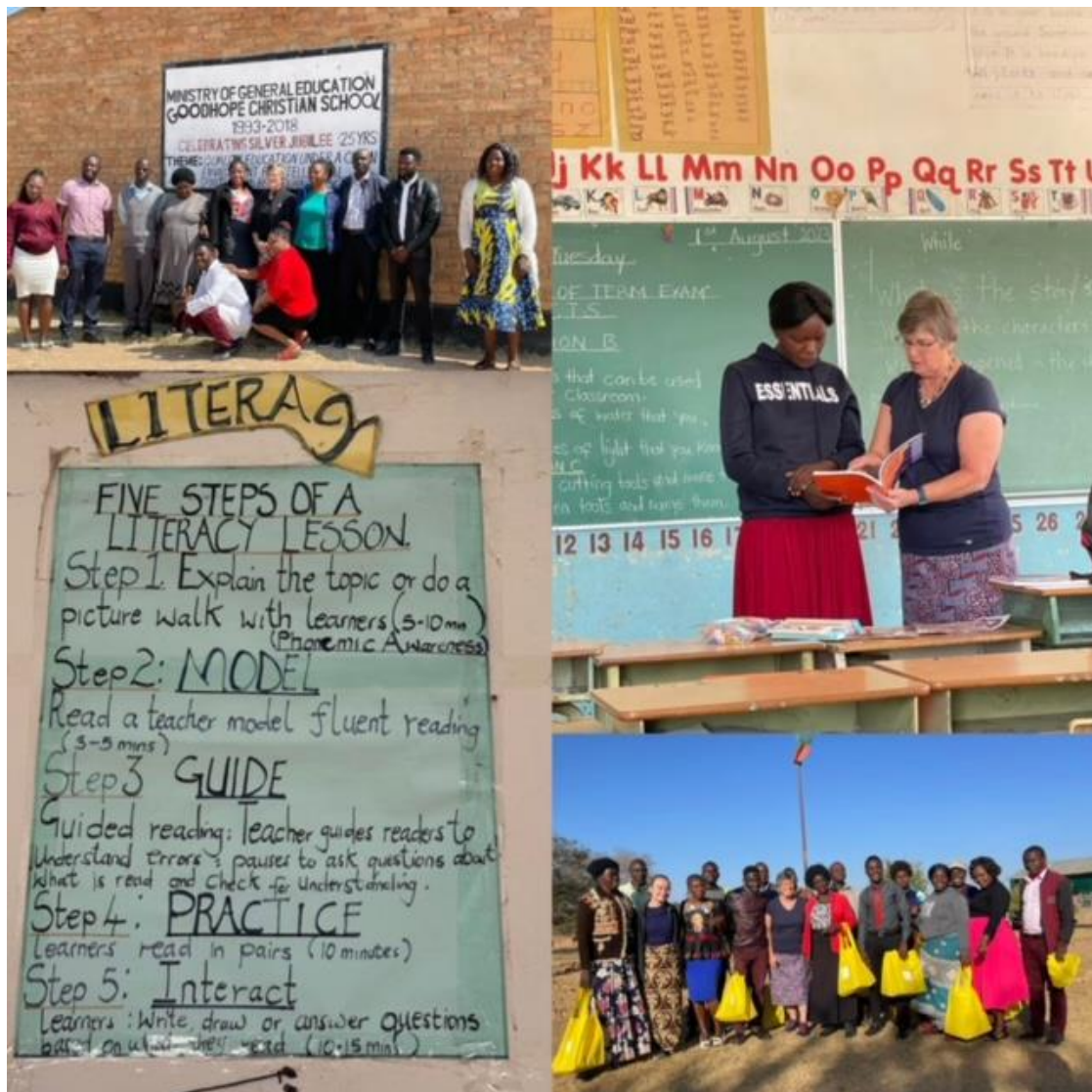


- ***Possible Selves: Nurturing Student Motivation and Supporting Post-Secondary Transition (2nd Edition)*, is now available** through Edge Enterprises, Inc. This edition includes criteria for scoring the mission statement assignment that can be used as a pre-/post-measure. It also includes a new Recommended Film List, an updated Possible Selves Questionnaire, a new student portrait assignment with several options, and newly added Exit Tickets per lesson. As a result of feedback about Native American culture, the Dream Catcher analogy has been replaced with the concept of a Champion. The student materials and instructional displays have been reorganized within each chapter, and ideas for tying goals and action plans to student transition have been added.
- ***The Fundamentals in the Sentence Writing Routine (Instructor's Manual)* has been revised.** Revisions include updates to outdated language, updated figures, and updated progress charts. You can get a PDF copy through the [KUCRL online store](#).

SIM in the Field

- **KUCRL's 2023 [Virtual CLLI](#) group** just wrapped up the institute component of their journey towards certification. Now the SIM PD Apprentices are gaining more experience with the support of their SIM Mentors during their apprenticeship period. We can't wait to celebrate their certifications soon! Likewise, the **KUCRL SIM [PDer 2 Pathway](#) groups** (LS and CE) are well underway with their learning by implementing SIM with students. Next year this group will join the 2024 CLLI group on their journey toward SIM PD Certification. Big thanks go out to Janice Creneti and Darlene Fletcher, who are co-directing these institutes with Jocelyn Washburn! We also send out our deep appreciation to the SIM Mentors for helping SIM reach more teachers and their students by expanding our SIM Network. The [2024 Virtual CLLI application](#) information is now available. Please continue to share!

- Here are some pictures from **Marti Elford's** SIM professional development work with teachers in Zambia, Africa this summer.



SIM Resources & Reminders

Links to new brochures:

- [SIM Overview Brochure](#)
- [SIM Learning Strategies Brochure](#)
 - [Writing Strategies Brochure](#)
- [SIM Content Enhancement Routine Brochure](#)
 - [Higher Order Thinking and Reasoning Brochure](#)
- [SIM Math Strategies Brochure](#)

Reminders:

- [Update your StateDirectory information](#)
- [Report the SIM PD work you did over the summer](#)

Congratulations to our Newly Certified Network Members!

- Paula Crawford (NC) - SIM Learning Strategies PDer
- Alysha Gray (NC) - SIM Learning Strategies PDer
- Heather Nguyen (FL) - SIM Content Enhancement PDer
- Debbie Higginbotham (NC) - SIM PD Leader



Upcoming SIM Events:

- **October, 2023** - [Arkansas Virtual SIM Update Conference](#)
- **Jan. - Feb., 2024** - [Winter Virtual SIM Update Conference](#)
- **Feb. - Mar., 2024** - [Adolescent Literacy Leadership Course](#)

SIM Online PD Classes for educators (self-paced courses on Canvas, with follow-up coaching session)

- [Framing Routine](#)
- [Fundamentals of Paraphrasing and Summarizing Strategy](#)
- [Possible Selves Strategy](#) (2nd Edition Coming Soon!)
- [Sentence Writing Strategies](#) (Fundamentals and Proficiency)
- [Unit Organizer Routine](#)

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