

## ABSTRACT

Reece, Matthew L. 2003. MATL Action Research Project. Nova Southeastern University, Fischler Graduate School of Education and Human Services, and SkyLight Professional Development.

Improving the Sight Reading Skills of High School Choral Students Through Aural Training, Relative Solmization, and Performance Assessment.

This project was designed and implemented in order to improve high school choral students' experience level, skills, and confidence in the area of sight reading new literature. Prior to implementation, choral students had the skill and confidence to sight read with the help of a piano playing their parts. In order to improve the students' aural and sight reading skills, this project was designed to improve the choir's performance when sight reading a cappella. The objectives of this project included increasing performance assessment scores both on classroom assessments and third-party contest adjudication, as well as improving the students' perception of the importance of sight reading and of their own capabilities as sight readers.

In order to achieve these objectives, three solutions were implemented over a six week period. These included weekly activities to improve the aural and intonation skills of the choir, daily sight reading exercises incorporating a relative solmization system, and weekly performance assessments in which the choir sight read an original piece by the instructor for evaluation of progress. The students dramatically improved their scores on the classroom assessments, far exceeding the goal of the stated objective. The other two objectives were not met to the degree set forth, but significant progress was made in the students' confidence and experience as sight readers and musicians.

Future study should occur in order to improve students' scores in the category of musicianship. In addition, more can be done to determine the effect of individual student improvement on the sight reading ability of the ensemble.