

“REFERENCE AND RESEARCH” IN
MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES
HOW DO I DO THAT?

Impacting Teacher Knowledge and Student Performance

Who benefits?



- Content area teachers not comfortable with “teaching reading”
- Reading coaches looking to connect with hesitant content area teachers
- Most importantly, students who need to improve important reading and thinking skills

Who are we?



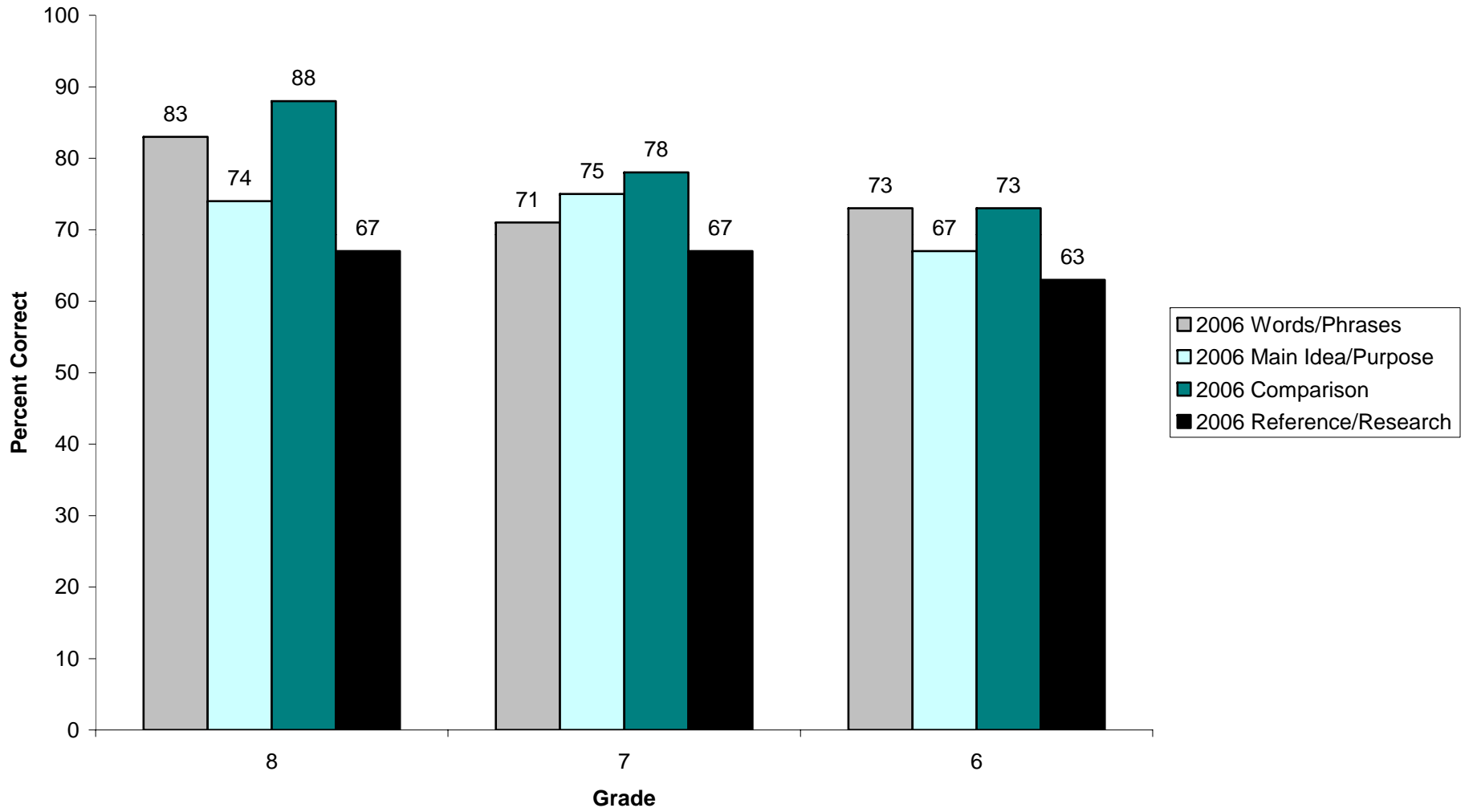
- PKY's social studies team
- We believe in teaching reading through content (not in isolation)
- We believe we can improve our students' reading ability
- We believe we are strategic minded teachers who want to see more equity and diversity in “advanced programs”

Where do teachers/teams begin?

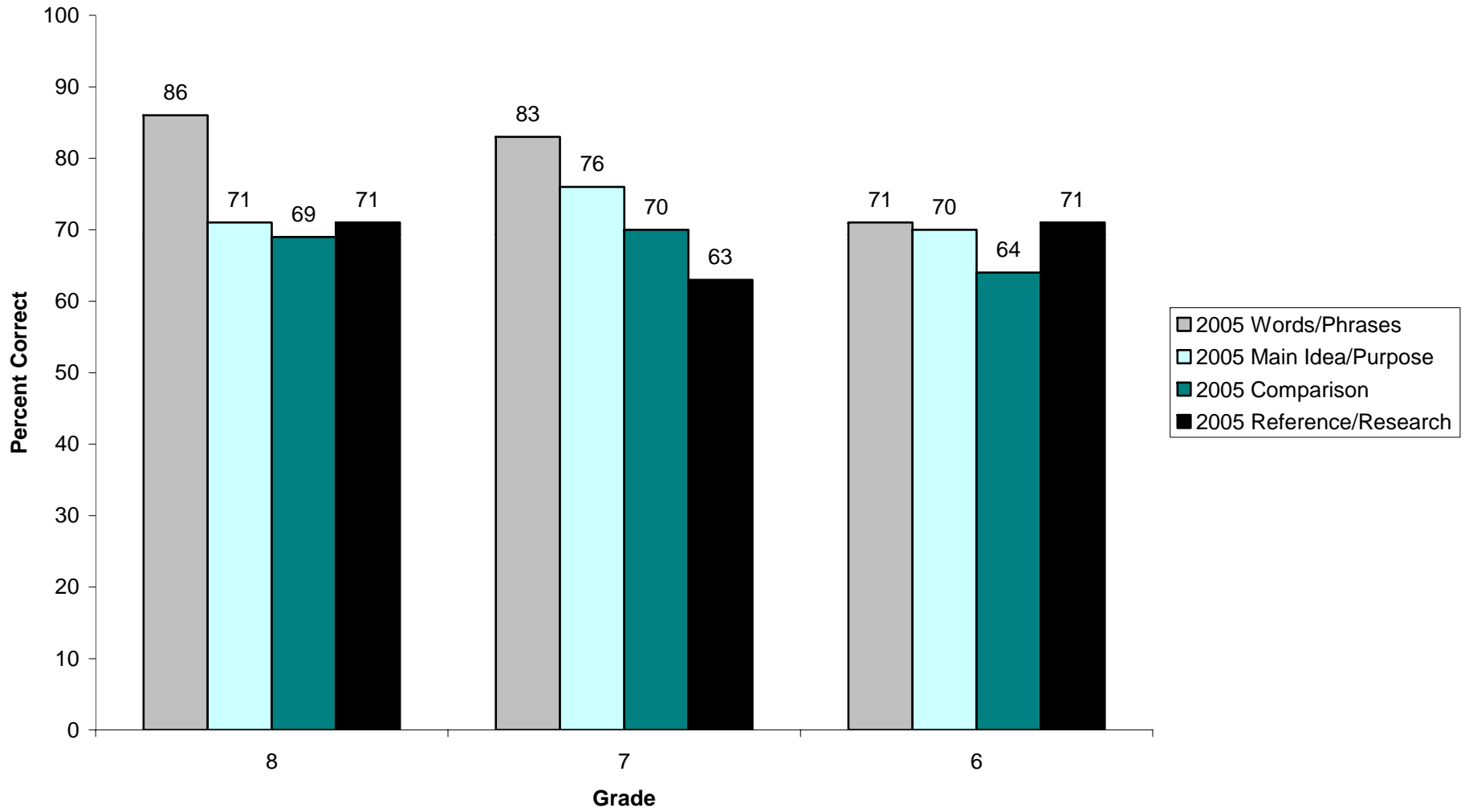


- With the 8th grade team, we actually sat down together and took the only 8th grade reading test to have been released
- As we worked on P.K. Yonge's secondary reading report for our SACS renewal we examined FCAT data for the last three years

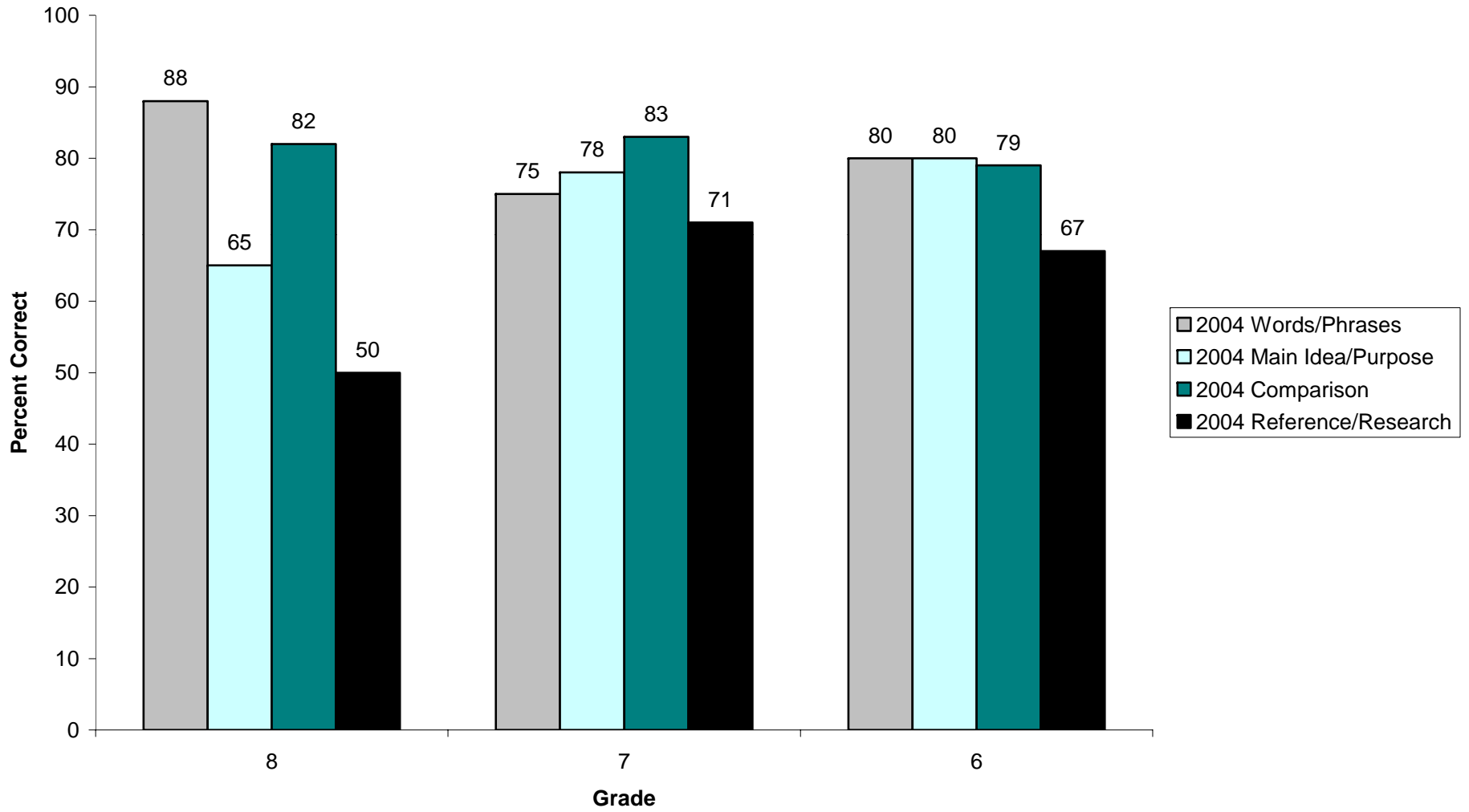
**2006 FCAT CRT Reading
Subtest Percentages
P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School**



**2005 FCAT CRT Reading
Subtest Percentages
P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School**



**2004 FCAT CRT Reading
Subtest Percentages
P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School**



How is the “Reference and Research” cluster defined?

- Sunshine State Standard A.2.3.5 *organization, interpretation, and synthesis of information* (locates, **organizes**, and **interprets** information)
- Sunshine State Standard A.2.3.8 **validity** and **accuracy** of information (differentiates strong vs. weak arguments)

What do actual FCAT “Reference and Research” items look like?

- Let's take a look at the released test!
- [..\Desktop\FCAT Released test.pdf](#)
- Let's take a look at Lessons Learned!
- [..\Desktop\Lessons Learned.pdf](#)



More Practice with Authentic FCAT



- The 2004 10th grade released FCAT Reading Test
- <http://fcat.fldoe.org>
- Work with teacher teams using state released tests and “Lessons Learned” to increase content teacher knowledge about the Research and Reference Cluster

Positive impact on instructional practice?



- More “authentic text,” primary sources, art work, political cartoons, etc.
- Supports student success with DBQ (Document Based Questions) technique used in college prep/ AP course work
- Teacher assessments include “performance items” designed to improve students’ thinking/reading skills
- Use both informative and narrative text to teach concepts
- Content area classrooms use multiple text sources, increasing student engagement in reading.

Students Respond to “R and R” Questions?

- “I don’t think they are a judge of what we know, but how well we observe”
- “The answers were all in the text and pictures, you just had to pay attention and find them”
- “You had to pay good attention”
- “Study the details”
- “Questions deal more with reading comprehension”
- “Look more at the details”
- “I like them because they make you think”
- “We can’t study for them”

Lesson Elements that Impact Critical Thinking



- “Which One of These is Not Like the Other” Analysis
- “Playing Detective” or “Hunt for the Clues” Analysis
- “Document Based Questions” Synthesis or Judgment

Available Examples and Resources



www.pky.ufl.edu

- Access our school website and click on “Reference and Research” How we do that! To access our social studies teacher blog containing lesson plans and examples of ongoing work from P.K. Yonge’s social studies department

Reading Coach Support



- Provide support with supplemental materials
- Provide professional development in a team setting
- Coach teachers in the incorporation of comprehension strategies to support additional content reading
- Coach teachers on the selection of appropriate text for various skills/grade levels

Administrative support



- Administrators lead the school-wide focus on literacy
- Meeting structure for ongoing collaborative planning
- Freedom from “prescribed” program guidelines
- Supporting content text materials

Resources and Questions?



- <http://www.pky.ufl.edu>
- FCAT released tests <http://fcat.fldoe.org/>
- U.S. History primary source data base searchable by topic and time period
<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/>
- Contact information jbourn@pky.ufl.edu
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