



Literacy, Life Skills, & Character Education Curriculum for College Students



Hi, I'm Summer!

And I am excited to introduce you to this powerful, proven program that I created out of painful life lessons and amazing victories. It is changing mindsets and transforming lives starting with two words— SO WHAT!.

The S.O. What! Literacy, Life Skills, and Character Education curriculum is a unique, trauma-informed, comprehensive curriculum and workbook that is making a big impact with educators, youth leaders, students, and even parents across the country.

Maybe you see a new approach is needed to reach the youth you serve. I encourage to review this overview, check out my website, analyze the data, and watch and read the testimonials to see how the impact yourself.

If you think this might be a solution to meet your goals or address your challenges, let's explore how this curriculum can help you get greater results for your organization by empowering your youth to see that they can achieve S.O. What! Success too.





Literacy, Life Skills, & Character Education Curriculum for College Students

Helping students face their challenges, overcome obstacles, and achieve success

The S.O. What! Literacy, Life Skills, and Character Education Curriculum is a unique, ACE's-informed curriculum that integrates academics and literacy with social and emotional learning to help schools and students excel in spite of any obstacles. The 14-lesson curriculum uses the compelling, relatable non-fiction text, *Life After Birth: A Memoir of Survival and Success as a Teenage Mother*, by resilience and leadership speaker and author, Summer Owens. Students examine her journey and focus on their own futures as they learn important **life skills** and **character education** topics crucial for success in life and in careers. Applying the higher learning standards for **English**, the curriculum builds literacy skills by focusing on:

Citing evidence, Informational text, Sequence, Vocabulary, Writing and Active discussions

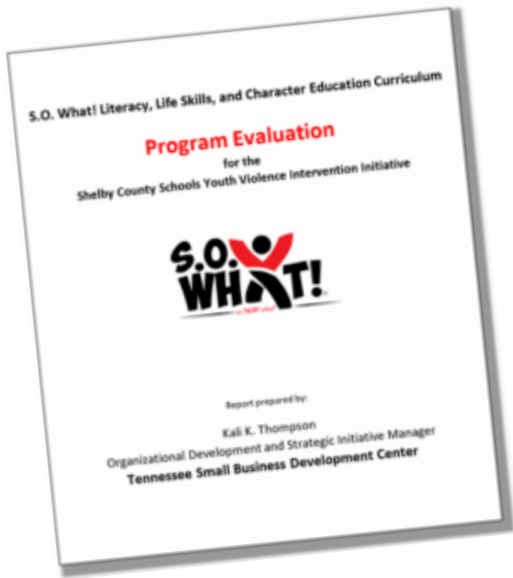
"I've been a firm believer in the impact of the book/curriculum for students since its' conception. I know from experience with students that it impacts their belief, hope, and social and emotional well-being, especially our at-risk students."

**-Ebony Suggs,
Adolescent Parenting Program
Professional School Counselor**



Outcomes of the S.O. What! Literacy, Life Skills, and Character Education Curriculum

- Improves academic performance, standardized test scores, school attendance rates, graduation rates, and post-secondary attendance rates
- Builds digital literacy and STEM skills to support learning in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math
- Develops college and career goals and workforce readiness
- Develops reading comprehension and writing skills
- Promotes literacy, academic excellence, health-related and financial education
- Builds self-esteem and help students value themselves and their futures
- Reduces bullying and violence and decrease discipline referrals
- Encourages leadership, teamwork, and community involvement
- Develops character and teach life skills to help students succeed in school and beyond
- Improves emotional learning initiatives
- Reduces teen pregnancy, poverty, and welfare dependence and promotes independence



College Student Testimonial



Backed By Data

“Students had a strong positive reaction to the program. Along with teaching important life skills, the S.O. What! Program encouraged positive behavioral changes. Additionally, students understanding of how their actions impact others increased. This behavioral change suggests that the program encourages students to think about the outcomes of their actions and could potentially prevent violent actions. Students were also more motivated to work hard in school and had a higher interest in reading after the program.”

-Kali Thompson, Organizational Development and Strategic Initiative Manager, Small Business Development Center

Curriculum Topics

- The importance of education
- Goal-setting, planning and thinking ahead
- Money management
- Accountability/Responsibility
- Decision-making
- The value of hard work
- Prioritizing & Delayed gratification
- Self-esteem and self-awareness
- Bullying
- Understanding emotions
- Cause and effect
- Relationships and the influence of friends
- Sex, STD's, and teen pregnancy
- Leadership and involvement
- Making a good impression
- Handling disappointments
- Career Exploration
- And MORE!



What's included with the S.O. What! Literacy, Life Skills, and Character Education Curriculum for College Students?

Whether used as a main text for building literacy skills in an English Language Arts class, in small groups focused on social and emotional development, an afterschool program, or a group focused on life skills and decision-making, the S.O. What! Literacy, Life Skills, and Character Education Curriculum is an all-inclusive resource for reaching and teaching your youth to achieve success.

Much more than a curriculum, the S.O. What! Literacy Life Skills and Character Education Curriculum workbooks provide you with everything you need to implement an engaging, impactful program to improve literacy and life outcomes for your students.

For Facilitators

- **A facilitator license for the S.O. What! Literacy, Life Skills, and Character Education** for access to the online library with additional resources to implement the curriculum



- **The S.O. What! Literacy, Life Skills, and Character Education Instructor Implementation Training**
- **The S.O. What! Literacy, Life Skills, and Character Education Instructor Guide**
- **The textbook, Life After Birth - A Memoir of Survival and Success as a Teenage Mother**
- **S.O. What! t-shirt** to reinforce the S.O. What! message of resilience

For Students

- **The S.O. What! Literacy, Life Skills, and Character Education Student Workbook and Journal**
- **The textbook, Life After Birth- A Memoir of Survival and Success as a Teenage Mother**
- **S.O. What! t-shirt which helps to reiterate the S.O. What! message of resilience and the lessons in the curriculum.** T-shirts are typically worn on the days students engage with the curriculum

Contact Summer Owens
to discuss pricing and
implementation options
for your school or
program.



Components of the Lessons

WORDS TO KNOW

Students will create “real world” definitions for each vocabulary word identified from the text. “Real world” definitions are created by the student’s own vocabulary, using words that they are familiar with to describe something new. These definitions can be fragments or sentences.

DIG DEEP

Allow students to discuss each of these questions developed from the text content in groups, then have each group answer a question aloud sharing and supporting the details behind their argument.

LET’S MAP IT OUT

Students will create plans, diagrams, plays and more identifying steps for addressing the questions posed based on the reading assignment.

RESEARCH CHECK

Students will use technology to research information on various topics related to the key ideas identified for each lesson.

QUICK CHECK

Students will write answers to the questions to the questions formed from text content citing evidence from the text to support their answers. (Citing evidence)

JOURNAL

The journal allows students to reflect on the reading as well as the class discussion and express their views based on the journal prompts related to the lesson objectives.

Workbook Table of Contents, Capstone Project, S.O. What! and S.O. NOW What? Statements

Table of Contents		
S.O. What! Statement		6
Lesson 1	Who am I?	7
Lesson 2	Choices and Consequences	12
Lesson 3	Change Happens	16
Lesson 4	Friends	21
Lesson 5	That's Life	26
Lesson 6	How Do I Move <u>On</u> After a Mistake?	30
Lesson 7	It's a Different World	35
Lesson 8	Fulfilling Goals	39
Lesson 9	Ready for the Real World	44
Lesson 10	Money Matters	48
Lesson 11	Building Today for Tomorrow	53
Lesson 12	Handling Disappointments	57
Lesson 13	Dreams Do Come True	61
Lesson 14	What is Success?	65
Capstone	Bringing it All Together	69
S.O. NOW What? Statement		70

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My S.O. What! Statement

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Capstone Bringing it All Together

The capstone project is a culminating activity that provides a way for you to demonstrate what you have learned over the course of engaging with this text and help you to begin to discover your educational and career path as a young mother. Understanding who you are, what you want to be and do in the future, and what it takes to get there are crucial to your success. These factors guide your daily decisions both inside and outside of school. Investing your best effort in this project is purely for your benefit as it will be a key element to directing the choices you make from this point forward.

The capstone project includes three major elements.

1. The Paper
2. Career Shadowing
3. The Presentation

1. The Paper

Using the key ideas identified in each lesson, write a five page paper explaining why these are important for becoming a successful adult and being successful on a career path that you choose. Use the research done in previous lessons as well as new research to explore linkages to the profession or career you choose and the important character and life skills identified in the lessons. Feel free to include additional character traits and life skills not directly mentioned in the lessons.

2. Career Shadowing

Identify at least one person in your chosen career field. Schedule a day to shadow this individual to learn more about the job. Consider shadowing multiple individuals in different careers to help you identify what careers interest you most. Be brave, think big and explore careers even beyond people you already know. Prepare questions ahead of time for the person you are shadowing and document the answers and your experience. Include questions about their journey and the education required to enter the field.

3. The Presentation

Using technology, present a five minute demonstration of the information in the paper as well as the career shadowing experience. The presentation should also include a plan for moving forward in pursuit of the career path. The focus for the project is to help you understand what career you would like to pursue, how to create a path to get to the profession, and the character traits and life skills needed to be successful doing it. Don't forget to include your child(ren) in your plan!

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My S.O. NOW What? Statement

My name is

and

So what I

So NOW I

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Sample Lesson

40

Reading: pp. 103-115

LESSON 8

Objective: I will understand the importance of setting goals.

Key Ideas: "discipline" "importance of education" "accomplishments"

"My senior year was the culmination of all my hard work for the past four years and the springboard for the rest of my life. I stayed up late almost every night doing homework and completing the requirements for my bachelor's degree."

Words to Know

"Fulfilling Goals"

Based on the context of the reading for this lesson, create a "real world" definition for each of the following words with a partner. Write your definitions below.

- goals
- discipline
- accomplishment
- obligations
- requirements
- stress
- culmination
- focus
- organize

DIG DEEP

Read the text and discuss the following questions in a small group.

1. What are some reasons Summer wanted to give up in college? How different would her determination be if she was not a mother?

2. What are some things that show Summer was disciplined and focused on reaching her goal of graduating college? (Support with evidence from the text.)

3. What are some things you can do to prepare for life after high school? How can gaining a college degree improve your lifestyle as an adult?

LET'S MAP IT OUT!

Make a list of your goals based on the time it takes to do them as Short-term or Long-term. Complete using "Handout 8."

RESEARCH CHECK ✓

Research an occupation you desire to have and figure out what it will take for you to accomplish that goal.

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41

✓ QUICK CHECK

LESSON 8

1. Within this text, how does the author show us that Summer saw education as important for both her son and herself? (Cite evidence from the text to support your answer.)

2. If Summer graduated college at 22, and n they go through together? (Cite evidence from the text to support

3. What courageous event allowed Jaylan from the text to support your answer.)

4. Time-management was essential for Su supports Summer managing her time w answer.)

5. What were some of Summer's accompl thought she could achieve in beginning answer.)

JOURNAL

LESSON 8

Let your voice be heard....

Think about what you most desire in your life. How can you achieve that goal? What are some things you need to change in order to accomplish your goal?

43

LESSON 8

44

HANDOUT 5

Make a list of your goals based on the time it takes to do them.

Short-term: 6 months or less Long-term: over 6 months

"Short-term and Long-term Goals"

Short-term Goals (6 months or less)	Long-term Goals (over 6 months)
Score an A on my English test next week	Get into college

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