

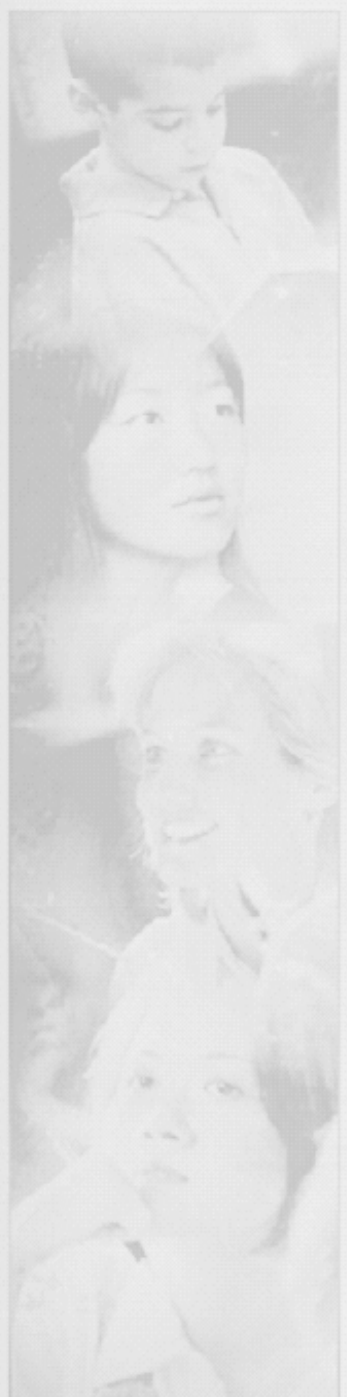
Improving Comprehension of Expository Text for English Language Learners

Jana Echevarria
California State University, Long Beach

Deborah Short
Center for Applied Linguistics

What we know about ELLs


- There are significant numbers of ELLs throughout the U.S.
- In 1998, 30% of Hispanic students dropped out compared to 14% for African Americans and 8% for Whites (8%) (Ruiz-de-Velasco & Fix, 2000).
- Garcia (1993) suggests that this high dropout rate may be a direct result of the achievement gap, partially created by a lack of vocabulary skills.
- For ELLs, comprehension takes on an additional meaning – not only reading comprehension but understanding the language and concepts being discussed in the text.



What We Know About Teachers

- 45% of U.S. teachers have ELL students in their classes.
- 17% of mainstream teachers feel adequate to teach ELLs.
- To close the achievement gap, provide *all* teachers with stronger preparation for teaching students from diverse backgrounds (Sleeter, 2001)
- Teachers feel more prepared to work with ELLs after receiving SIOP training than other ELL training (Hulquist, 2002; Wlazlinski, 2003)



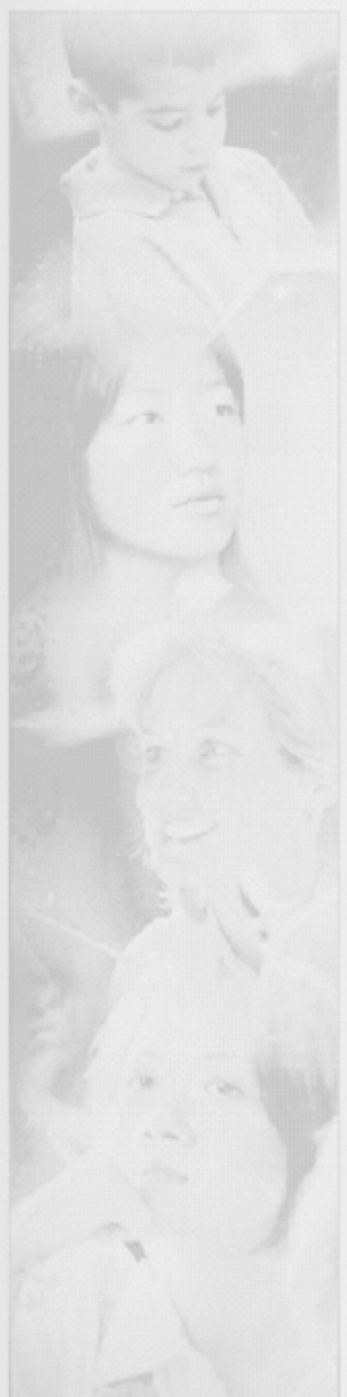


Research: The Effects of Sheltered Instruction on the Achievement of LEP Students

- CREDE (Center for Research on Education, Diversity & Excellence)
- 7-year research study (1996-2003), funded by the US Dept. of Education
- Teacher-researcher collaboration for SIOP model development
- Field-testing of instrument through professional development model
- Student achievement measured through writing sample

Research Definition of Sheltered Instruction


- A means for making grade-level academic content (e.g., science, social studies, math) more accessible for English language learners while at the same time promoting their English language development.






Research Definition of Sheltered Instruction

- An approach that can extend the time students have for getting language support services while giving them a jump start on the content subjects they will need for graduation.
- The practice of highlighting key language features and incorporating strategies that make the content comprehensible to students.



Development of the SIOP Model (CREDE Research Project)

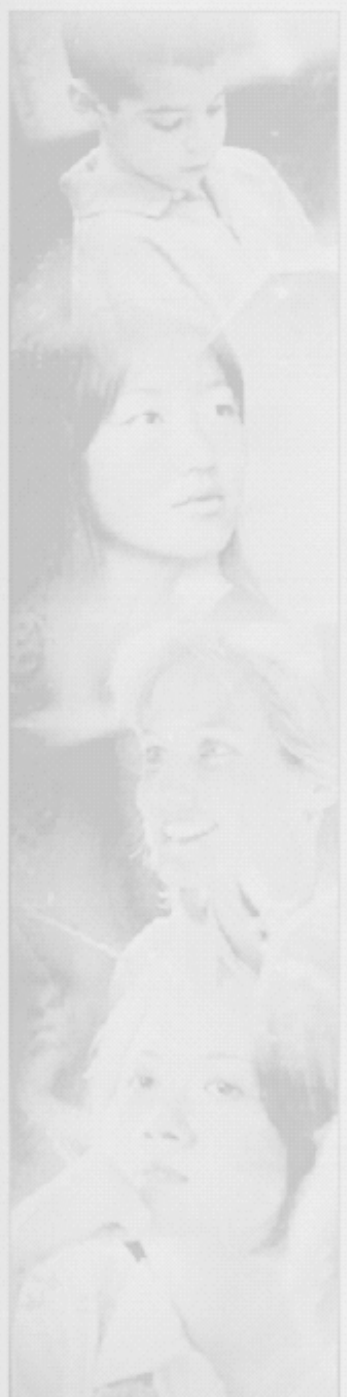
- After 4 years of teacher-researcher collaborative research, the SI project developed a model of effective sheltered instruction, operationalized in the Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP) (Echevarria, Vogt & Short, 2000).
- After several years of field-testing the SIOP, a study was conducted to establish the validity and reliability of the instrument (Garino, Echevarria, Short, Schick, Forbes & Rueda, 2001). Findings indicated that the SIOP is a highly reliable and valid measure of sheltered instruction.



The SIOP Model: Sheltered Instruction for Academic Achievement

(Echevarria, Vogt, & Short, 2000)

- Preparation
- Building Background
- Comprehensible Input
- Strategies
- Interaction
- Practice & Application
- Lesson Delivery
- Review & Assessment



Scientifically Based

Second Edition

MAKING CONTENT COMPREHENSIBLE

FOR

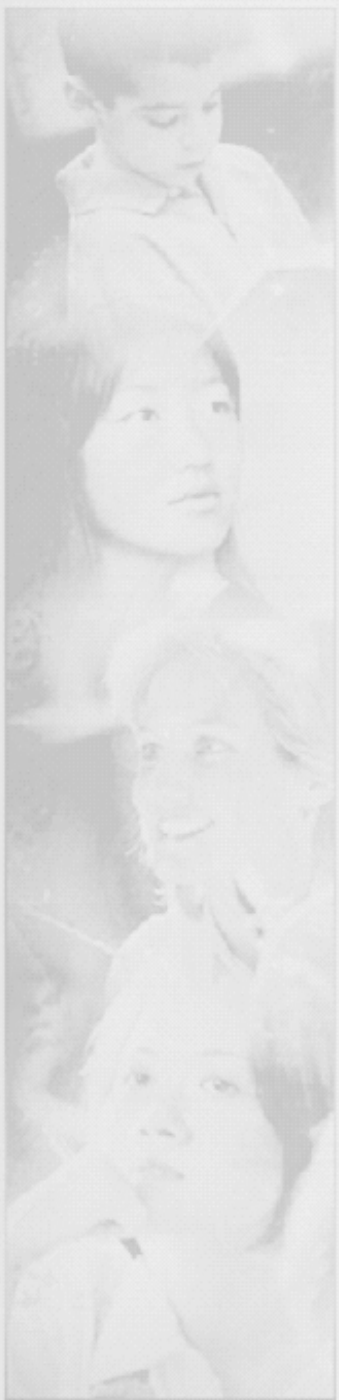
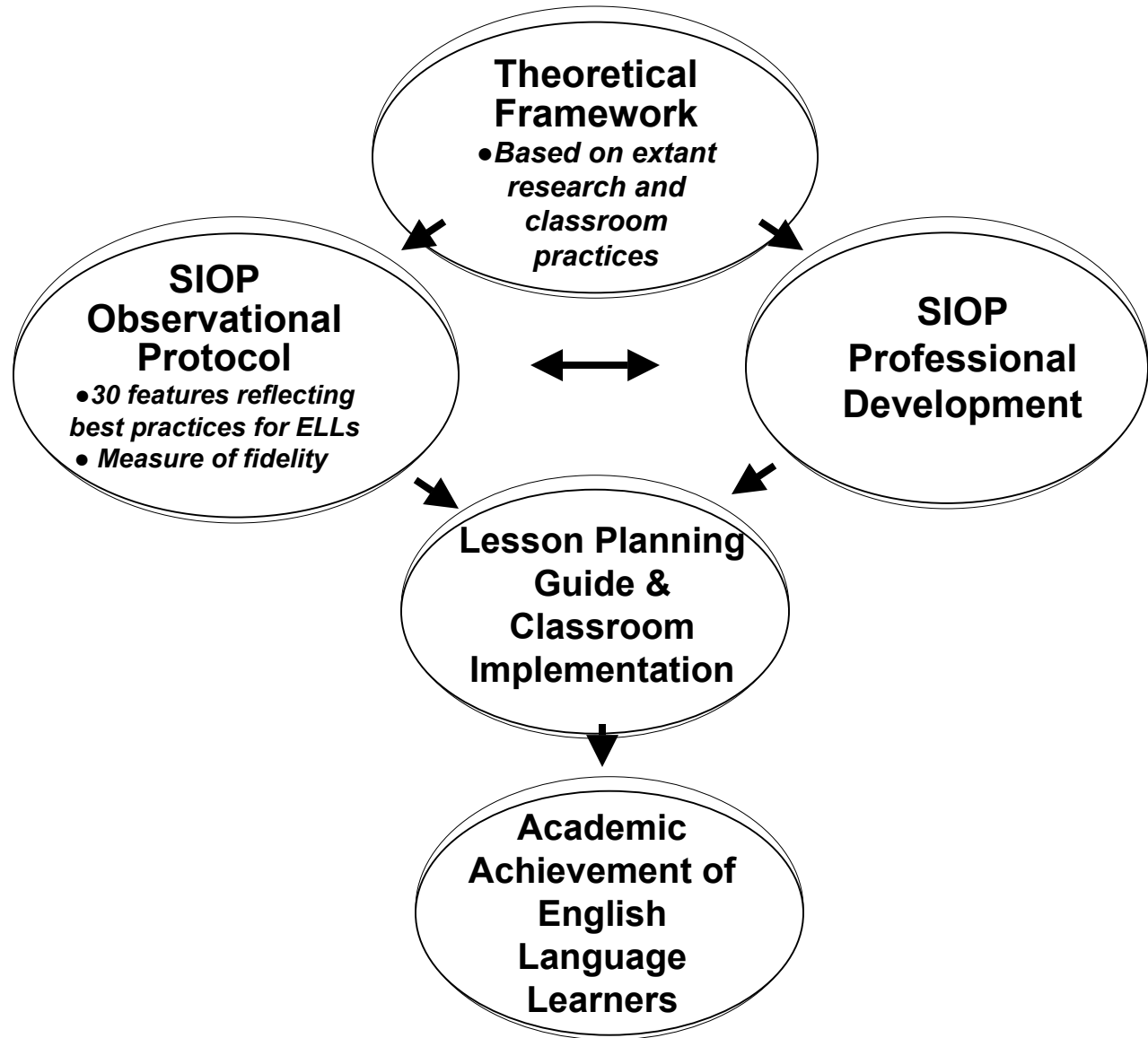
English Learners

The
SIOP
MODEL

JANA ECHEVARRIA MARYELLEN VOGT
DEBORAH J. SHORT



The SIOP Model





Research Findings

- 1997-98: Using a prompt requiring narrative writing, ELLs in classes with SIOP-trained teachers demonstrated significantly higher writing scores than ELLs in classes with non-SIOP-trained sheltered teachers.



IMAGE: Illinois Measurement of Annual Growth in English

- Standardized test of writing
- Writing Subtests:
 - Language production
 - Focus
 - Support/elaboration
 - Organization
 - Mechanics
- Scoring Rubric (0 to 5)

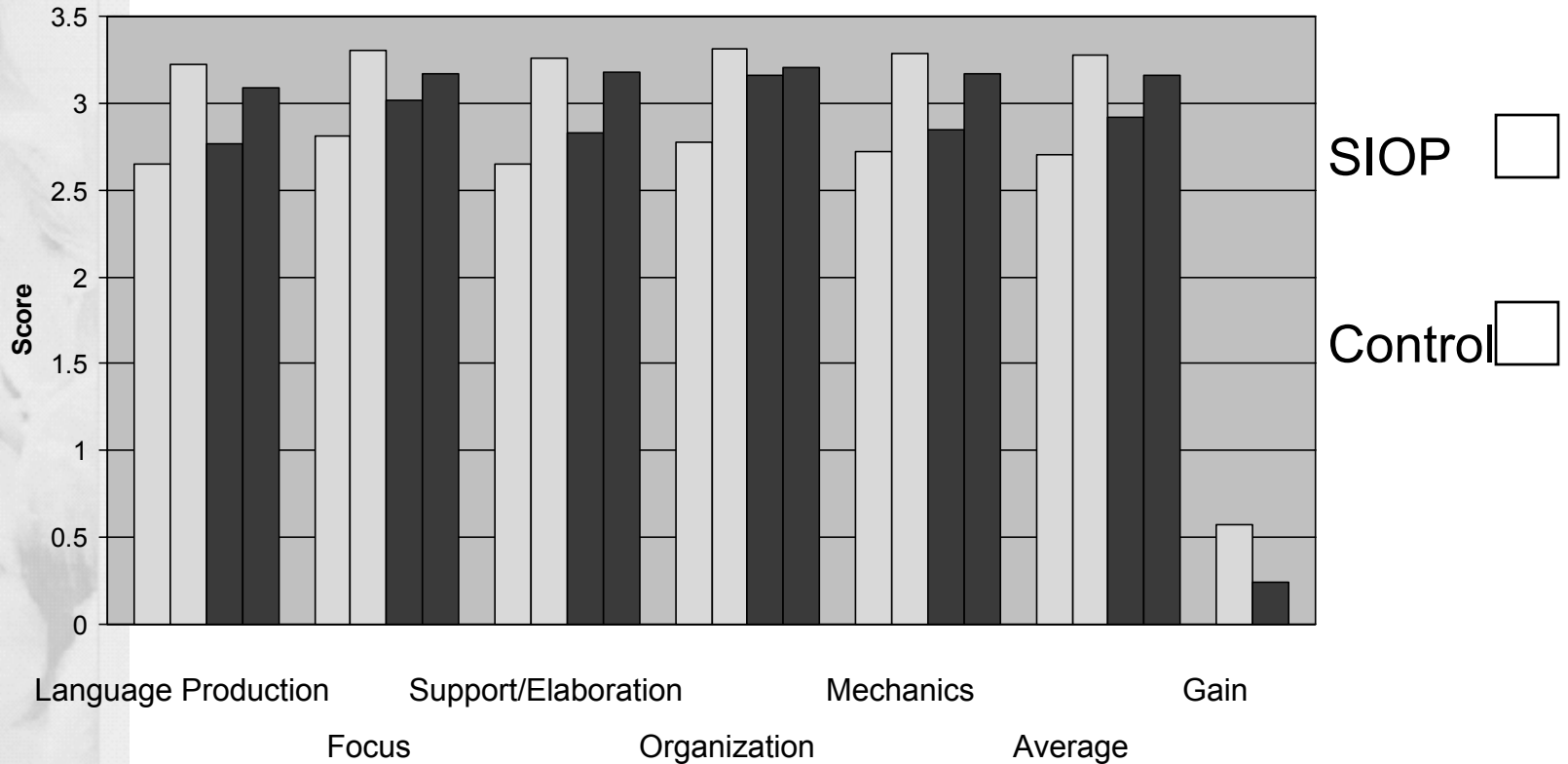


Research Findings

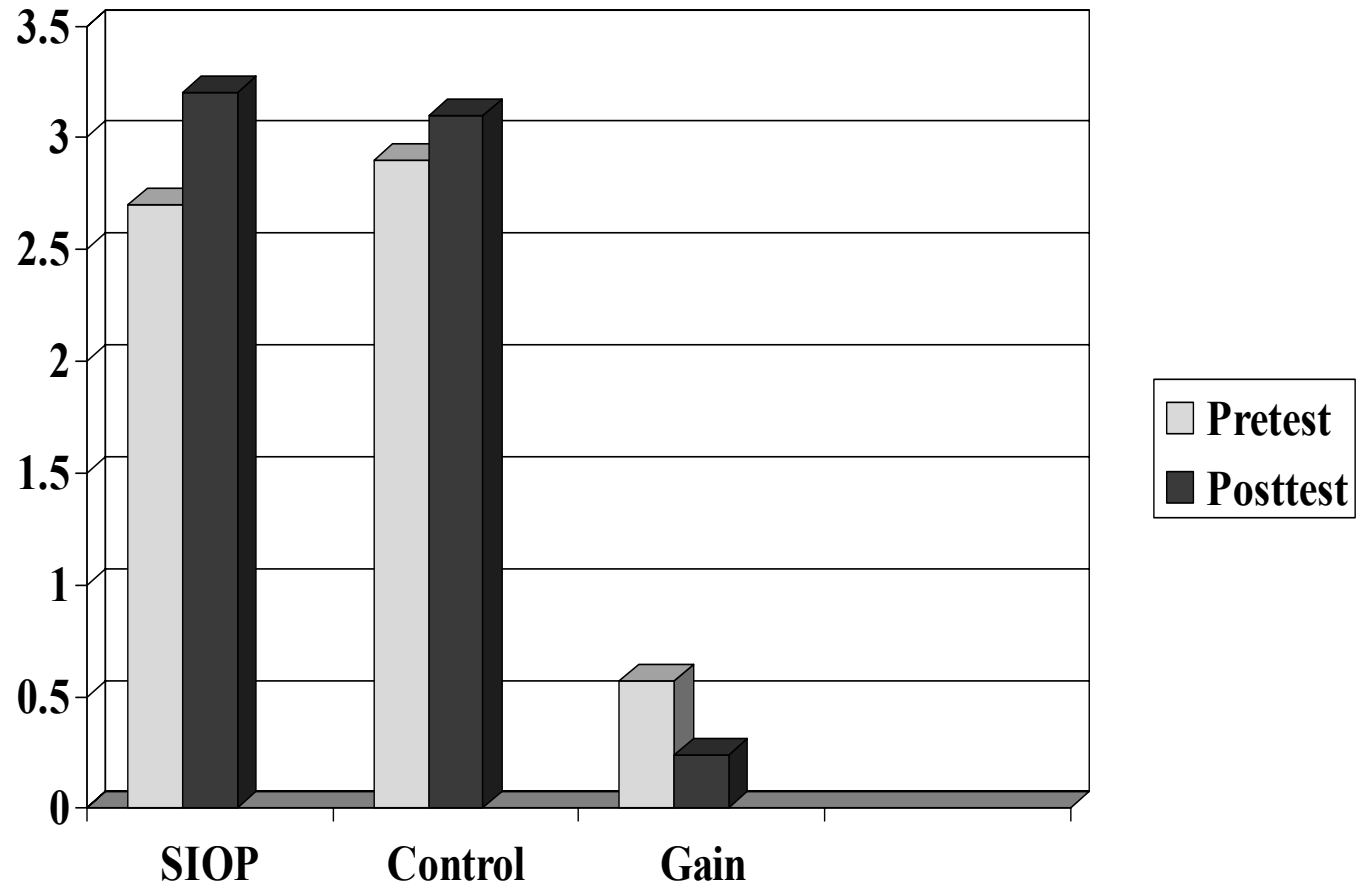
1998-99: Using a prompt requiring expository writing, ELLs in classes with SIOP-trained teachers outperformed and made greater overall gains than ELLs in classes with non-SIOP-trained sheltered teachers.

Writing Sample Results 1998-99

Pre/Post SIOPI & Pre/Post Control Scores



1998-99 Pre & Post Writing Skills Scores





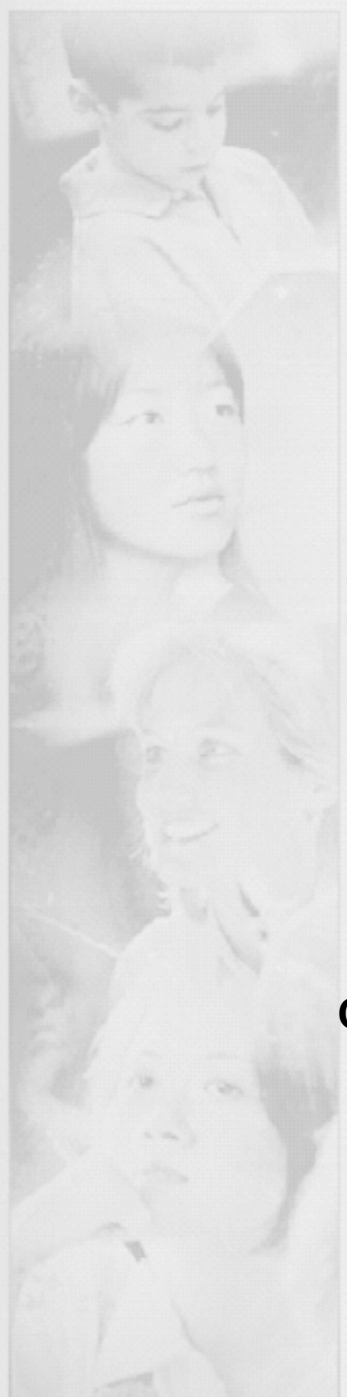
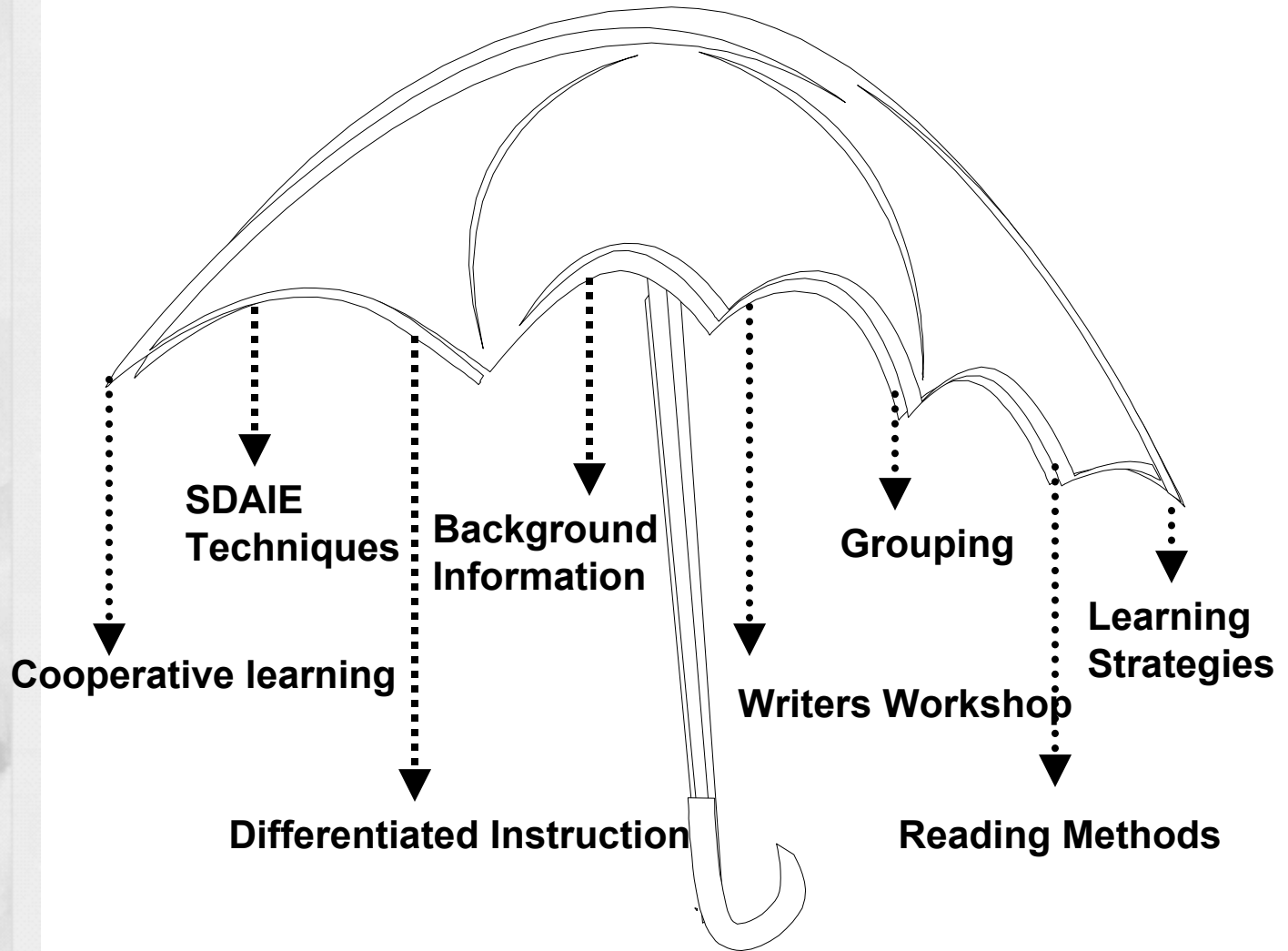
The SIOP Model:

Sheltered Instruction for Academic Achievement

Strategies

- **Sixth grade class**
- **Beginners to Advanced
Beginners**

SIOP Model of Sheltered Instruction





Limitations of the Study

- No randomization
- Disparate levels of L1, L2, education, etc.
- Proficiency testing unreliable; different classification used
- Messy settings (The Design-Based Research Collective, 2003)



Future Research

- How is the SIOP Model being implemented and what data are being collected?
- How does the model accommodate a variety of academic and linguistic levels?
- What are the most salient features?
- What is the model's effect on vocabulary development and comprehension?

