This research project will focus on analyzing data and trends from a project conducted at East Broad Street School in the Savannah-Chatham County School District in May and June 2013. This project was titled “Web-Based Platforms for Presenting Book Reviews: A partnership of East Broad ‘Teens for Literacy’ student leaders and Armstrong Atlantic State University Teacher Education Candidates.” I participated in the program as a volunteer, working with individual 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students. We selected books on their Lexile reading levels, engaged in critical discussion around the test using Bloom’s Taxonomy as a framework, journaled on insights gleaned while reading, researched new vocabulary terms, and helped students synthesize their ideas in writing. Students created original profiles of themselves as readers and personal book reviews on a WIX template. They created an interactive blog site to serve as a platform for encouraging their peers to participate in summer reading endeavors.

Dr. Betty White and I will code the students’ writing projects to identify patterns in the students’ book reviews and insights that contribute to the field of adolescent literacy research. We will present results of our research at the 25th annual National Youth at Risk Conference at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Savannah, Georgia in March 2014. The $200 Undergraduate Research Grant funds would cover the full registration fee for the NYAR conference, which would allow me to present results of my research analysis. I also plan to present my research at the Student Scholars Symposium in April with a poster.