

McGraw Hill Studysync **Student** Pilot Trends

1. Engagement with Stories

Negative Trends:

- ✗ **Lack of Interest in Texts** – Many students found the stories **boring, repetitive, or not engaging**.
- ✗ **Low Representation & Relatability** – Several students **did not see themselves** or their experiences reflected in the reading materials.
- ✗ **Forced Structure** – Some students felt that they were being **"talked down to"**, especially older students, who said the materials felt **too easy or childish**.

Positive Trends:

- ✓ **Some Enjoyed Certain Stories** – A few students liked stories like *Maus*, *Impostor Syndrome*, and poetry selections.
- ✓ **Students Liked Analyzing Texts** – Some found **annotations and vocabulary exercises helpful**.

2. Writing Experience

Negative Trends:

- ✗ **Lack of Choice** – Many students felt that they had **no real choice** in what they wrote about, making assignments feel restrictive.
- ✗ **Prompts Were Confusing** – Some students found writing prompts **unclear or too broad**.
- ✗ **Not Enough Guidance** – Several students said the materials **didn't provide enough examples or models** to help them.
- ✗ **Too Many Quizzes & Structured Writing** – Some students disliked **structured responses and forced summaries**.

Positive Trends:

- ✓ **Some Liked Peer Review** – A few students enjoyed **reviewing classmates' writing**.
- ✓ **A Few Found Writing Assignments Helpful** – Some students said they **improved their comprehension and writing skills**.

3. Digital vs. Print Learning

Negative Trends:

- ✗ **Overwhelming Screen Time** – Many students **disliked spending too much time online** and felt the curriculum was **too digital-heavy**.
- ✗ **Confusing Online Navigation** – Students struggled with **too many clicks, tabs, and menus**.
- ✗ **Digital & Print Mismatch** – Some noted **differences between print and digital materials**, leading to confusion.

Positive Trends:

✓ **Some Found Online Access Easy** – A portion of students **liked the convenience** of digital tools and online assignments.

✓ **Students Liked Split-Screen Mode** – Some found it **helpful for referencing texts while writing**.

4. Accessibility & Online Tools

Negative Trends:

✗ **Technical Issues** – Several students **experienced glitches** or found the **interface frustrating**.

✗ **Translation Features Were Limited** – Some **multilingual learners struggled** with the translation tools.

✗ **Limited Interactive Features** – Students wanted more **collaboration and discussion** rather than isolated screen work.

Positive Trends:

✓ **Some Found Digital Tools Helpful** – A few students **liked vocabulary matching tools and annotation features**.

5. Opportunities for Interaction

Negative Trends:

✗ **Minimal Student Interaction** – Students reported **few opportunities for discussion and collaboration**.

✗ **Independent, Screen-Based Work** – Many felt **isolated in their learning**, with **little engagement with peers or teachers**.

Positive Trends:

✓ **Some Enjoyed Group Work & Class Discussions** – A few students mentioned **group reading and discussions** as highlights.

6. Overall Student Impressions

Negative Trends:

✗ **Many Students Strongly Disliked StudySync** – Some students had **extreme negative reactions**, with some saying it felt like **busywork** or was **the worst thing they had ever done**.

✗ **Boring & Repetitive** – Multiple students **compared StudySync to state testing**, saying it felt **repetitive and lacked creativity**.

✗ **Not Challenging Enough** – High school students, in particular, found the **content too easy or lacking depth**.

Positive Trends:

✓ **Some Found the Structure Useful** – A small number of students **appreciated the clear organization** and easy navigation.

✓ **A Few Students Liked the Reading & Vocabulary Activities** – Some students **enjoyed specific stories, quizzes, and analysis tasks**.

Final Summary

The Good:

- Some stories were engaging (*Maus*, *Impostor Syndrome*, *poetry*).
- Some students liked digital annotation, split-screen features, and vocabulary exercises.
- A few students found the structure easy to follow.

The Concerns:

- Stories were often considered boring and lacked representation.
- Writing prompts felt restrictive, unclear, or not well-supported.
- Students disliked the overwhelming screen time and digital navigation issues.
- Few opportunities for peer or teacher interaction.
- Older students found the materials too easy or below grade level.

The Bottom Line:

Most students **did not find the StudySync curriculum engaging or effective**, especially in writing and digital experience. While some students appreciated **organization and vocabulary work**, many felt **frustrated, uninspired, and disconnected** from learning.