What extra work is required of me if I were to attach an SI section to my class?

The Instructors who have had an SI section report that there is actually less work than in a regular class because of the reduction in workload due to the assistance of the SI Leader. You will need to communicate on a regular basis with your SI Leader (that communication can be face-to-face, via e-mail, or by phone). You will also be required to provide your census roster and your final grade roster to the SI Coordinator so that final reports can be generated. The SI Coordinator will format your data into the final report.

Will the SI Leader follow my lesson plan and respect my teaching methods?

Yes! One of the main reasons to have the SI Leader attend all classes is so that the SI Leader will know exactly what you cover, how you cover it, and when you cover it. This is one of the major benefits of SI. The supplemental instruction your students receive will be consistent with your class and your voice (unlike tutoring received in the LRC/MC/WC.) SI Leaders are closely supervised and evaluated. Ongoing training is also provided.

Can I ask the SI Leader to grade my papers?

No. While like a TA (teaching assistant) in terms of additional support for the students in class in a smaller group setting, SI Leaders are not true TAs. SI Leaders do not grade homework or exams, however SI Leaders are privy to those results if the instructor so chooses.

Can I direct my SI Leader to cover specific topics in the SI sessions?

Yes! The two-way communication you establish with your SI leader is so crucial. For example, one semester, after grading homework on probability, one math instructor found that her class in general had problems with the multiplication rule. She immediately shared this with her SI Leader, who was then able to give extra attention to that topic in SI.

Can I give the students extra credit for attending SI?

No. Firstly, student participation is voluntary. Students should realize the benefits of attending SI on their own. Second, SI sessions are scheduled to accommodate as many students as possible (majority rules). However, there will be a group of students whose schedules will not permit SI attendance. Therefore, since not every student has the opportunity to attend, no extra credit can be given. Note: experience has shown that the students who cannot attend SI will soon make contact with those who can to find out what was covered in SI sessions.

What if I realize several weeks into the semester that I really don’t like SI? Can I opt out at that time if I feel that SI is not benefiting my students?

No. Please give SI a chance. SI has been in existence for over 3 decades and has proven to be a successful program for achieving positive student outcomes. If concerns about SI arise during the semester, please contact the SI Coordinator for additional support.

How does SI benefit me, the instructor? What’s in it for me?

There are many benefits instructors, regardless of their discipline, can gain from implementing supplemental instruction. To learn more, please contact Janice Levasseur at jlevasseur@msjc.edu.