

## Report on Sounds-Write course in New York

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I have recently been over to New York to train a group of volunteers, called Amazing Readers. They work in an elementary school in Mount Vernon, in the northern suburbs of the city, where many of the children struggle to reach grade level.



The venue for the course was Mount Vernon Public Library (see picture above), where we were given the use of a large community room. The library staff were very welcoming and helpful; setting up all the IT equipment and providing us with tea and coffee making facilities.



There were 8 ladies on the course. Some were ex-teachers and some had retired from other professions. They were all keen to learn about phonics and to become competent at delivering the Sounds-Write programme.



They were a great group of ladies who are giving their time to try and raise the level of literacy in this very needy school. I will continue to support them, in whatever way I can, in their endeavour to make a difference to these children's lives.