

Lesson Plan

The Power of Giving

Summary

1. Subject(s): Reading, Writing
2. Objective: Students will enhance their ability to recognize different text structures while practicing writing

SEL Goal: Students will recognize that many of their acts of kindness often go unnoticed by others, and we truly don't know the impact we have on the people around us.

5. Time Allotment: 2 class periods

Directions

Prior to using this project, I introduce different informative text structures. I introduce this [website](#) as a way to provide the four (fictional) projects that I have my students do prior to transitioning into informative writing. This is another example (albeit a bit cliché) of how impactful generosity can be.

I play the video once just for students to be exposed to the storyline they will ultimately have to “report” about. Once we watch it once, I ask students to write a GIST statement to summarize what the video was about. We then brainstorm what the central idea of the video is (think/pair/share).

Once you feel your students are comfortable with the material, provide the students with a link to the video so they can watch it at their own pace. Then provide the rest of the class (I would encourage one more class period) to complete the assignment.

Example

"You have no idea how great of an impact a simple act of kindness can be on someone." Dr. Kim is a renowned surgeon in his community, but it wasn't always this way. He has had to overcome a significant amount of obstacles in order for him to be in the position he is in today.

"Growing up, my family was very poor. We struggled in almost every possible way. Despite our circumstances, we always stuck together and did whatever we could to help each other." One day when Dr. Kim was young, his mother became very ill. His entire family was concerned. "We did not have enough money for medicine that we knew would help her. I was scared, and I became desperate enough to do whatever I could to help her." Dr. Kim went to a local store and stole some medicine. He was quickly caught and was about to get into trouble.

"As I was getting yelled at by the store owner, a kind man came and not only paid for the medicine, but then donated some food from his store for me to bring home as well." Dr. Kim describes this moment as the critical turning point of his life. "As I was walking home with medicine and warm soup, I instantly realized that I must dedicate my life toward helping others. I must repay the kind man that helped me in a moment of need." Dr. Kim began working odd jobs for anyone in his community to help pay for his education. Through his hard work, he was able to earn a scholarship to pursue his dream of working in medicine.

"Seeing my mom sick and knowing the stress that it put on my family is something that I would not wish on anyone to experience. I have always wanted to be in a position to help." In a shocking twist, he recently came across a patient he was quite familiar with: the man who had helped him many years ago with the medicine.

"I looked through his chart and instantly realized he was not in good condition. I did everything I could to nurse him back to health so that he could go back to doing what he loves most." Not only did Dr. Kim successfully do that, but he also was given an opportunity to pay it back to the man who had done so much for him. "I did not charge him and his family a cent for his stay. No amount of money could repay him for what he had done for me, but I was thankful to have been given an opportunity to show him my gratitude."