



Lesson Plan: American Heroes

Activity Steps:

Hook: Share story about my dad, an American hero with a purple heart.

Introduction: Review the qualities of a good citizen (follow laws, take part in government, responsible, respectful, caring and fair). Review specific attributes to be a good citizen in our classroom (follow classroom and school rules, take part in activities, be responsible for work, respectful of others, etc.). Write the word hero on the board and discuss what the word means. Explain project objectives.

Activity: Day 1: Read aloud a short biography of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, taking notes on board as read. Explain that when doing a research paper students need to take notes to use later. Show note taking handout. Using the notes from the board, demonstrate how to fill in the note taking handout. Explain that if all of the information cannot be found in one source, students need to select another source to complete handout. Assign groups and different heroes, displaying resources available to them. Pass out the note-taking handout and have them begin research. At the end of the class period remind students that they will "become and act as" their hero on day 6, and they should begin to look for props and costumes to use from home.

Day 2: Remind students that they need to find all of the information on their note-taking sheet. Review notes from yesterday. Display research paper form on Aver Media. Explain and model how to complete this form. Remind students that their group needs to work together to find all of the information and each one needs to complete their own form by tomorrow. Display Research Paper Rubric and answer any questions. Students continue their research, note taking, and research form. Teacher circulates the room to assist as needed. Teacher meets with groups who have finished note-taking handout and research form to review content with students. If complete, teacher demonstrates how to turn the research paper form into paragraphs. At the end of the class period remind students that they will "become" their hero on day 6, and they should be looking for props and costumes to use from home.



Day 3: Review all steps. Go back to FDR information. Discuss possible interesting opening "hooks" to begin report. Write several of the class generated hooks on board for their reference. Remind students that everyone must be finished with the note-taking handout and the research paper form today. Continue meeting with groups and assist those who have not started the writing process. Inform students that tomorrow will be the last day to work on the research paper in class. At the end of the class period remind students that they will "become" their hero on day 6, and they should be looking for props and costumes to use from home.

Day 4: Review steps as necessary. Display finished copy of FDR report and go over using the rubric. Remind students that this is the last day for working on the research paper in class. Model "becoming" FDR and allow students to ask questions. Explain that this is what they will do when they become the subject of their research. Display Performance Rubric and answer any questions. Groups that are finished writing their paper begin working on their presentations. Continue monitoring the groups that have not finished writing. Begin meeting with groups who are working on presentation.

Day 5: Every group works on presentations. Remind students to bring props and costumes for their presentations.

Day 6: Groups give presentations.

Special Needs of students are considered in this lesson:

Differentiation will take place as students will be grouped heterogeneously to benefit the learning styles and needs of all types of learners. Hands on learning with plenty of visuals, opportunities for movement, verbal, written, and nonverbal expression, and multiple learning modalities are available within the context of this lesson.

Extension Ideas:

Students can create a poster on their American hero; create flip books on qualities of good citizenship; propose other Americans that could be classified as heroes and explain reasoning.