

Attendance and Achievement: Dwayne

Lesson Title: Teacher Appreciation Project

Grade Level: High School



Essential Question:

How does a good teacher motivate and influence us?

Note:

Before beginning this class, watch suggested YouTube videos about teacher appreciation and make sure you can access the site in your classroom. If not, download samples to a computer or drive beforehand.

Materials:

- Smartboard/Computer connected screen to watch suggested YouTube videos
- Paper (draft paper and 'good paper' for final product) and writing implements and/or access to computer writing programs
- Envelopes and postage for those letters students choose to send

Procedure:

1. Begin session by asking each student: Who is a teacher who influenced your life? How did he or she motivate you in school? Help students delve deeper into their responses with the following questions:
 - What do you most appreciate about this teacher?
 - What moment stands out in your memory about this teacher?
 - Did the teacher do or say something that was kind or interesting or funny?
 - How did their teaching affect you?
 - What quality did he/she exhibit most? How?
 - Tell us a story about this teacher.
 - How will the lessons you learned from this teacher follow you in life?
 - What would you say to that teacher if you could talk to him or her today?
2. If possible, show any of the videos in the resource section below to illustrate different ways students have shown appreciation for teachers. Ask students to comment on what stands out in each video. Is it necessary to speak with your teacher to express appreciation? Why or why not?

3. Explain that each student will write a letter of appreciation to a teacher who has influenced or had an impact on their life. The letters will be written by hand (unless student has an alternative plan). Why is it important to write a letter of appreciation by hand if it is possible? Follow the school writing process for drafts and final product.
4. Have stationary and envelopes available for final drafts should students want to send a copy of the letter to the teacher.
5. Ask volunteers to share their letters with one other person and/or the class.

Conclusion:

Review the purpose of the lesson. Ask students to discuss how a good teacher can motivate and influence a person well past days in the classroom.

Resources:

Sample videos created for teacher appreciation:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RN3iLeq1828>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9T9N01EYjW4>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gANeGBoSBs>