

Lesson 2: Choosing Your Topic

Overview:

This lesson will utilize the practice of brainstorming to encourage students to think about their lives and the world they live in. In order to help them choose their topics, students will be asked to come up with projects that their class could document. At the end of this lesson, students will be prompted to write a one-page paper on their chosen topic.

Skills Taught: creative thinking, problem solving, citizenship, leadership

Goals: To collectively select a topic to film through a group brainstorm.

What you will need: a chalkboard or dry erase board

Materials: digital slide show, workshop

Prep: read lesson

Class time: 45 minutes

Activities: class brainstorm

Assignment: written topic assignment



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Topic Brainstorm

Part 1: Brainstorm

THIS IS A BRAINSTORM. Use rapid fire answers, and call out with no commentary or discussion. Have two notetakers that write down all of the answers on the board.

Step 1 You will participate in One Day on Earth by creating video or photographs. Use the following prompts to help brainstorm what topics to document as a class project. (10 minutes)

- How would you share your creativity?*
- What about your life, your family, your culture, or your community would you want to share?*
- Is there cause that you would like to raise awareness about through your participation?*
- What inspires you to make videos?*
- What picture would you take that no one has seen before?*
- What do you think is the most important thing to know for a person who has never been to your community, town, city, state or country?*
- Is there someone you know or a group of people in your community that is helping to make the world a better place, who are they and what are they doing?*
- What about your community would you like to show people 500 years in the future? What would you like to have been able to see 500 years ago?*

Step 2 Once time is up, take a break, and look at what is written on the board.

Step 3 Combine similarities, and cross out duplications.

Step 4 Ask students to each choose one topic on the board, and create break-out groups based on the students choices.

Step 5 Have students work in their chosen topic-based break-out groups for 10 minutes to discuss and answer the questions below.

Part 2: Group discussion (10 minutes)

Discuss and come up with answers to the following questions with your class.

- What resources are needed to cover this topic, and are those resources available to you?*
- What skills are needed to cover this topic?*
- Can you document your topic in one day?*
- Is your topic physically safe to film?*
- Is your topic appropriate for your community?*
- Is there a specific location where your topic must be documented? If not, what location can you think of that would support your topic?*

Part 3: Group Reports and Final Decision (10 minutes)

- Step 1** Regroup and choose one person to report the feedback from your discussion.
- Step 2** Based on group reports, cross out any topics from the class list that aren't feasible.
- Step 3** Collectively, or individually, decide on a final topic from those left on the board as the subject of your project.

Written Topic Assignment

Now that you have decided on a final topic, it's time to write about it.

Have your students write a one page paper on the topic they have chosen to document where they explain, in writing:

- the topic they chose
- why they chose it
- how they will document it
- for how long of a time period they plan to shoot: time of day, hours, minutes
- what importance this topic has to them individually
- what importance they believe this topic will have to the world



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