

Minnesota Writing Project

--- Demonstration Lesson ---

Title:

Writing For Justice

(OR, MINING LIFE AND NOTEBOOKS FOR SOME PRETTY GOOD IDEAS-WHILE ADDING SOME NEW STUFF)

Grade appropriate: K- 16 **Approximate Length of time to complete lesson/unit:** on-going

Learning objectives and significance of lesson:

Guided by their teachers who want to help students open their eyes to the wonderful world in which we live, to see all of the pit falls and possibilities, students will use their interests and passions to learn more about the world in which we live. Students can then integrate the new learning into their writing and living.

Brief summary/outline:

(Is this lesson an intro? middle? end? All or part of a unit? Does it scaffold a certain learning?)

As we coach our student writers we easily notice their interests and passions; our students typically write about that which interests them if we give them the opportunity.

Knowing that we write best about things we know and we learn best the things that interest us, we can coach students into adding more or new information into their writing.

Especially adding non-fiction information to their writing. But we must be aware that any information that we provide or encourage helps to promote a way of viewing the world and being in the world. We must realize that education is political and that the decisions we make about what to teach help create the world.

For example, if a student is writing about dogs we could encourage that student to add more information about the size and breeds of dogs. Or we could teach the students about the number of dogs that are ending up in the Humane Society this year (2008) because people cannot afford to take care of their pets. Only one of these two ways adds information in a current context. For a better presentation of this topic please see

http://docs.google.com/Presentation?id=dhftndbq_0gkh4kndq

Related Resources:

Places to find some good information on social issues:

Read, Write and Think

<http://www.readwritethink.org/index.asp>

Human Rights Watch- Children's issues

<http://hrw.org/doc/?t=children>

Free the Children

<http://www.freethechildren.com/index.php>

U of M Human Rights Library

<http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/>

For educators and children

<http://www.hrusa.org/thisismyhome/>

Global Issues

<http://www.globalissues.org/>

Resource page

<http://www.dmoz.org/Society/Issues/Children, Youth and Family/>

Unicef

<http://www.unicef.org/>

Possible extensions or adaptations for different purposes/student needs:

This idea is very adaptable to any grade level or any student; we are simply putting their ideas, interests and passions in a context that helps them to see the world as it could be. I want teachers and students (and everyone else) to see that we are all involved in this world and it is our decisions that add up to all the pieces that create this world

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