

Minnesota Writing Project

--- Demonstration Lesson Template ---

Title of lesson: Modeling Writing for Expression: Watermark Event Piece

Suggested grade/age: 5-12

Approximate time needed to complete lesson: 2-3 class periods

Learning objective(s) and significance of lesson:

(Why is this lesson important in the development of your students' skills or knowledge? What do you want students to learn or be able to do? What "best practice" does this lesson incorporate?)

Students need a chance to explore writing as a tool for personal expression and for telling the stories of their lives, as well as for honing the craft of writing. It's also important for students to see their teacher as a peer writer and learn to use others' writing as a model for their own writing. As such, this lesson includes a pre-writing element that encourages students to "talk through" their ideas for the piece, as well as explicit modeling of the teacher's writing to guide the process. It also serves as a jumping-off point for addressing some technical aspects of narrative writing such as details and voice.

Brief summary/outline of lesson:

(What steps do you take to implement this lesson in your classroom? Where is this lesson located in the school year or unit—beginning, middle, end? Does this lesson scaffold or build to a culminating assessment or demonstration of learning?)

This lesson would take place after an introduction to the concept of narrative writing, or "writing for expression," and would be preceded by several shorter narrative writing exercises and activities. I teach this unit as one of the first of the year, to emphasize the importance of writing for expression in the development of writers (not just writing for academic purposes). This lesson would be followed by editing workshops targeting specific elements I want to highlight (i.e., details, voice) and would culminate in a final "Watermark" piece that would be revised and edited in peer writing groups.

Related Resources:

(What technology, articles, books, or supplies do you recommend?)

Write Like This, by Kelly Gallagher

Possible extensions or adaptations for different purposes/student needs:

This lesson was developed for a 9-12 advanced ELL writing course, but could easily be adapted for other age groups and more traditional Language Arts classes.

For additional information, contact:

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