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Lesson Plan: Civil Rights: "May I Speak" (grades 6-8)

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Lesson Plan

Course/Grade Level:

- Social Studies: 8th Grade American History

Topic/Title:

- Civil Rights “May I Speak”

Historical Time Period(s):

- Contemporary America

Thematic Question:

- Why fight for justice?

Standards/Benchmarks/Indicators:

- Social Studies: People in Societies
 - B. Analyze examples of interactions between cultural groups and explain the factors that contribute to cooperation and conflict.
 2. Describe and explain the social, economic and political effects of:
 - a. Stereotyping and prejudice;
 - b. Racism and discrimination;
 - c. Institutionalized racism and institutionalized discrimination.
- Social Studies Skills and Methods
 - C. Present a position and support it with evidence and citation of sources.
 3. Write a position paper or give an oral presentation that includes citation of sources.
- ELA: Reading Process: Concepts of Print, Comprehension Strategies and Self-Monitoring Strategies
 - B. Apply effective reading comprehension strategies, including summarizing and making predictions, and comparisons using information in text, between text and across subject areas
 2. Answer literal, inferential, evaluative and synthesizing questions to demonstrate comprehension of grade-appropriate print texts and electronic and visual media.
- ELA: Communications: Oral and Visual
 - G. Give presentations using a variety of delivery methods, visual displays and technology.

Materials/Resources:

1. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" Speech (Audio or Video and Text)
2. Paper/Pencil
3. Video Recorder
4. Computer/Internet/Projector
5. Clip of Civil Rights Demonstration
6. I Have a Dream: Reading Comprehension Exercise

Motivation (Attention Grabber):

1. Have the clip playing when students enter the room.
2. Write the following words on the board: *Be prepared to reflect and respond.*

Activities:

1. Student will watch a short clip of a Civil Rights demonstration (silently)
2. Reflect and Response time-Students have two minutes to reflect or respond verbally (uninterrupted) about the clip they just watched.
3. Write the following quote on the board "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."
4. Watch "I Have a Dream" Speech –Take notes on hardcopy to prepare for reflect and response time about this speech.
5. After watching, reading and taking notes students will be asked to reflect and respond to the following question: What does this quote mean to me? Their response or reflection to the question will prepare them for their oral interview.
6. Have students orally interview each other answering the question.
7. Students will independently complete "I Have a Dream":Reading Comprehension Exercise

Assessment:

1. Active participation during discussion of the "I Have a Dream" Speech
2. Detailed notes
3. Share response
4. Participates in oral interview
5. Complete "I Have a Dream": Reading Comprehension Exercise