

Lesson Description

In this standards-based writing lesson, students will write an authentic letter about a cause they care about to someone they look up to. Students will then practice their vocal expression to help them better express their letters.

Lesson Steps

Part I: My World in a Letter

1. Show the video of the performance. Give students graphic organizers and have students write down observations while watching the video. Lead a discussion of student observations.

Possible guiding questions:

- What are some vocabulary words that we have heard in the video?
- What are some the themes that are in the letters?
- What do the letters say about individuals who wrote them?
- Is there a message that the letter writers' wants to their audience to understand? What is it?
- What do you take away from the letters?
- Do any of the letters engage in history or culture or geography or issues that are new or familiar to you?

Criteria-based process assessment: Actively engages in conversation about the performance.

2. Introduce "I Live and I Hope in a World" Exercise.

Each student to write down five statements following the prompt (teachers can provide sentence stems for elementary students). Each "I live" statement is followed by description connecting the student to their world or personal perspective or experience or identifying the issue. The following "I hope" statement, opens the imagination for celebration of their perspective or an opportunity to identify the changes they wish for in their world. Students share their statements with a partner.

- ❖ Best practices: If students are struggling, have them start with writing their statements in reference to their senses (taste, smell, touch, sight, sound) or work in partners to write their "I hope" statements after they have written the first "I live" statements.

Examples:

I live in a neighborhood where people without homes live in a park.

I hope to live in a neighborhood were there are homes for all.

I live in a world where the air tastes salty because of the water from Puget Sound.

I hope that others love the water too.

Criteria-based teacher checklist and peer assessment: Using a minimal sentence frame, free writes. Expresses ideas through writing.