

Amazing Americans

By Callie Fry

Standards

- IL.3.B.1a > Use prewriting strategies to generate and organize ideas (e.g., focus on one topic; organize writing to include a beginning, middle and end; use descriptive words when writing about people, places, things, events).
- IL.3.B.1b > Demonstrate focus, organization, elaboration and integration in written compositions (e.g., short stories, letters, essays, reports).
- IL.4.B.1a > Present brief oral reports, using language and vocabulary appropriate to the message and audience (e.g., show and tell).
- IRA.2.6 ...show that students need opportunities to integrate their use of literacy through reading, writing, listening, speaking, viewing, and representing visually
- NCTE.3.2.3 ...use the processes of composing to create various forms of oral, visual, and written literacy;

Resources

LOC

Meet Amazing Americans.

Overview and Rationale

The students will choose a specific historical American figure from the website to complete their report. Their research will start on the LOC website, but they will be allowed to use other sources. This is important because students will learn about important people from the past and learn about their lifestyles. It will be an eye-opening experience.

Objectives

Students will prepare brainstorming maps to show what they want to write about in their report. Students will write a 2-3 page report using the

organization from their map. Students will present a short oral report along with one visual aide of their historical figure for the class.

Materials

LOC website Computer lab Posters or access to other items to use as visual aides Markers/other items to decorate posters

Procedure

Day 1 1. The students will be taken to the computer lab. 2. They will be told to go to the LOC website and look at the "Meet Amazing Americans" page. 3. They will have the option to pick one figure to write a report on. 4. They will complete research on this figure from the LOC website. Other sources may be used. 5. The teacher will explain how to create a graphic organizer for brainstorming using a dry erase board and a synthetic topic. 6. The students will have the rest of the class to create their own organizer for their research. Day 2 1. The students will have a chance to return to the computer lab to complete more research, or they may start writing, using their organizer. 2. The teacher will also have an example of a visual aide and have the students begin working on their aides as well. Day 3 2. The students will be chosen randomly to give their oral reports.

Assessment

Students will be assessed on their maps and their written and oral reports. There will be a checklist for the oral reports and the maps. There will be a rubric for the written report.

Reflection

I enjoyed this lesson. The LOC website has so much to offer. I think if students are introduced to it and given time, they will enjoy exploring all its wonderful content. Learning about the lives of the historical figures will also allow them to see a new way of life and learn about history. I liked incorporating language arts with this lesson, and that the students will have an opportunity to speak in front of their peers. It gives them practice for future use in a fun, inventive way.