

Random Acts of Kindness has brought more meaning into my life, and I am committed to help spread the word.

— Carol, State Parent Facilitator, HI

do

These Lesson Plans are a culmination of school-wide activities and classroom activities, ranging from grades K-12.

Lesson Plan

Making Headlines

Submitted by Sabrina; Odessa, FL

Type of Activity:

This lesson plan actively encourages students to do acts of kindness, and at the same time learn about geography and utilize their writing skills. It is easily adaptable to any level.

Grade Level:

Junior/Senior High (done in a 7th grade class)

Time Frame:

Three consecutive days

Objectives:

After completing the lessons in *Making Headlines*, students will be able to:

1. Identify various countries.
2. Recognize an act of kindness.
3. Explain how acts of kindness are found throughout the world.
4. Write newspaper articles including the who, what, where, when, why and how of a particular event.
5. Perform an act of kindness.
6. Articulate why a given action is considered kind.
7. Evaluate acts of kindness they and others perform.

Day 1:

Students are introduced to the meaning of kindness. To begin, students define kindness. Then, students discuss what kindness looks like, feels like and then sounds like. Since the students are already studying world geography, a discussion occurs about general ways people in other countries show kindness. For example, some countries (in addition to the United States) allow refugees into their country and give various types of asylum. Furthermore, people in other countries perform more everyday acts of kindness just like us. Students are then asked to describe those acts.

Homework assignment: Find a current event article about an act of kindness performed in another country. Students may use the internet, newspapers, or magazines. Then, students write a summary of the article and write a paragraph about why they think the article shows kindness.

Day 2:

Each student shares their article including why they believe it is about an act of kindness. Then, the student identifies the country on a world map and writes the general act of kindness exhibited on the white board. After each student explains their article, a discussion occurs about the commonalities found between the various articles. The discussion then changes to writing techniques. Students discuss how in terms of writing format newspaper articles all share common elements including the who, what, where, when, why, and how of a given topic.

Homework assignment: In the next eight hours, each student must do an act of kindness, and then write a newspaper account of the act. The article must be written using newspaper article format including being written in the third person with an intriguing headline.

Day 3:

Students are given the opportunity to share their articles and discuss how it felt performing the act and then writing about it.

Evaluation:

Newspaper articles collected and evaluated using the following rubric: (It is a given that an act of kindness occurred in order to write the article.)

- 1 Article unclear and no technical elements
- 2 Article only included 2 of the technical elements
- 3 Article included 3 of the technical elements
- 4 Article included all technical elements (the who, what, where, when, why, and how with a headline).

Sources: Various newspapers including local papers and USA Today (www.usatoday.com) *Random Acts of Kindness, The Teachers Guide 2nd Edition*

Comments:

This activity engaged my students to think about their daily acts. At the same time, it gave me insight into their daily lives. Students wrote about many different acts of kindness including helping people pick up dropped items to feeding their fourteen dogs every night. As I read each article, I was able to get a clear picture of their acts. Some students chose to type their articles and set them up like a real" newspaper while others attempted to meet the minimal requirements. This activity allowed me to incorporate character education into my academic curriculum.