

PIER Summer Institutes 2014 Lesson Plan for Classroom Teachers

Title of Lesson: Extra! Extra! Read All About It: A Classroom Inquiry To See What's Important Across the Americas

Author: James Bratager

School: St. Luke School, River Forest

Grade Level: Social Studies: 6-8 Grades

Time: 45-90 minutes

Introduction: Using this lesson plan, a teacher will be able to help students understand that there are different issues and problems that face other communities that they may or may not face in theirs by using the Newseum Front Pages website. Using the front pages of local and global newspapers, students will be able to determine what is important in each region through comparing and contrasting. This lesson plan is designed for 7th/8th graders but can easily be upgraded for high school students.

Geographic Connections: D2. Geo. 4.6-8, D2. Geo. 5.6-8, D2. Geo. 6.6-8

Vocabulary: front page, editor, font size, bias, domestic, local

Content Standards: CCSS. ELA- LITERACY. RH. 6-8.2, CCSS. ELA- LITERACY. RH. 6-8.5

Essential Question: Is that which is important to Chicagoans the same thing that is important to others in other (American, global) cities?

Literacy through the Content Area: Comparing/Contrasting, Close Reading, Text-to-Self, Text-to-World, Text-to-Text, Vocabulary development, Reading Strategies: Before Reading, During Reading, and After Reading

Placement of Lesson within Broader Curriculum/Context: This lesson can be used all year long to complement what is being studied in any Social Studies classroom.

Learner Background: The student in this class would be English language ready. They would have already studied American and World History. They would feel comfortable navigating a web page. They would understand the concept of a Venn diagram.

Objectives for Lesson: SWBAT: Students will be able to differentiate the importance of local and national news stories by their placement or non-placement on front pages of local community newspapers.

Integration of 21st century skills: Students will use their critical thinking skills to communicate effectively what is important to a local area by using technology.

Assessment: Through classroom discussion students will create a Venn diagram to compare and contrast current events in various communities across America. Also, students will be asked to write out an exit slip demonstrating what they learned.

Summative Assessment: The teacher will provide forum on the chapter test for the student to recall what was learned comparing and contrasting the front pages.

Materials/Resources: Newseum website, Smartboard, iPads or laptops, notebooks, white board, exit slips, Venn diagram, chart paper, dry erase markers (colors preferred)

Lesson Development/Instructional Strategies:

Procedure:

1. Introduce Newseum web site: Newseum.org
2. Introduce vocabulary.
3. Introduce “Front Page” tab on the right hand side of page.
4. Read Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to activate prior knowledge.
5. Break students into groups of four or five.
6. Navigate to home town newspaper or largest town in vicinity.
7. Determine the three “biggest” stories from that front page.
8. Give student groups separate front pages to read (teacher may sort by region, population size, by language/immigrant groups, etc.)
9. After 15-20 minutes of reading, students will create Venn diagrams on chart paper comparing and contrasting different issues and problems that communities face.
10. Each group shares their findings with the whole class by displaying their Venn diagrams on the classroom walls.
11. At the end of class, students will complete an exit slip before they walk out the door:
What new item did you learn today? Why do you think (name city) stories were the same or different?

Students Needing Differentiated Instruction:

- For at risk readers, the teacher should provide scaffolding to assist the student with reading the front pages of the newspaper.
- For English Language Learners (ELL) students can read the front pages in their native language.
- For gifted students, the teacher can direct them to go to that newspaper’s website to get the full stories.