Student Learning Plan

Name: Barbara Vandermer

Subject: English

Grade: 11

Goal: Create a montage-style lesson to introduce the importance of the American flag in understanding our study of American literature and set a patriotic tone for our year’s study.

Importance of the lesson, relevance for students

Because the flag is the premiere American icon, a study of its history and importance in our national culture and psyche will help students focus on the reading we will do this year.

Related Primary and Secondary Sources:

Primary: Library of Congress Web Site (Webcast): The History and Myths Surrounding the U.S. Flag; The American Flag by Joseph Rodman Drake (book); Making of the Flag by J.L. G. Ferris (painting).

Secondary: Flag photos from websites: Ground Zero Spirit (NY Firefighters Flag raising on September 11); Apollo 11 moon landing.

Internet sites: www.usflag.org; http://en.wikipedia.org/Jasper Johns

Books: Flags of our Fathers by James Bradley; The Century by Peter Jennings and Todd Brewster (still photos of historical events showing flags)

Film Clips: Flags of our Fathers; World Trade Center: Rocky IV

Expected Duration: 2 or 3 days

Objectives

Academic Standards:

X Pennsylvania ___ National (SPA)

Reading, Writing, Speaking, Listening

1.1.11A – Locate text, media and traditional resources
1.2.11B – Use and understand a variety of media and evaluate quality of material

1.3.11E – Analyze how scriptwriters use of words creates tone and mood

1.6.11A – Listen to others

1.6.11F – Use media for learning purposes

Assessment method:

Group discussion

Objectives are:

X Cognitive      X Affective   ___ Psychomotor

Student Objectives: (related to assessment) As a result of this lesson, the students will be able to:

1. Understand basic history of the flag: students will achieve this by completing the American Flag Trivia quiz using several flag websites.
2. Recognize the importance of the flag in several historical events: students will achieve this by viewing still photos of many events where the flag is used to set tone. These photos will be taken from internet sources and books.
3. Explore the symbolic meaning and emotional significance of the flag to Americans: students will achieve this by discussing together how the flag plays a part in the historical event. What effect does it have? Students explore the flag’s power to inspire, comfort, and unite.
4. Learn about the cover flag artist for our text book – THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE (Prentice-Hall) - Jasper Johns: students will achieve this by looking at website about the artist, viewing some of his flag art, and discuss the flag chosen by Prentice Hall for the cover of the textbook. Was it a good choice? It’s ORANGE!!!!—what’s that about? Shouldn’t it be red, white, and blue?

Content Notes and Questions for Students:

1. Show a photo montage of flag images accompanied by patriotic music.
2. Betsy Ross – fact and myth: Students are detectives on several web sites about flag information, finding answers to my quiz questions (done in computer lab).
3. Look at the prominent place the flag has played in many historical events (web sites, still photo): flag on moon, at ground zero, in demonstrations, marches, state funerals.
4. Flags in films: Rocky IV (how the emotion of country and flag inspires). World Trade Center (firefighters raise flag at Ground Zero), Flags of our Fathers (the flag raising on Iwo Jima).
5. Discussion with students: Our attitudes toward the flag: behavior during National Anthem, Pledge of Allegiance, etc. What the flag means to us.
6. Introduce the flag artist chosen for the cover of our American Experience text book. Look at web site about Jasper Johns and see some of his flag art and discuss his sometimes unorthodox style. Discuss the choice of the flag for the text cover. Was it a good choice? How does it impact our view of the flag and what is American?

Professional Development

Thoughts before/after Teaching the Lesson:

I think this kind of into will set the academic “mood” for this American lit class. I am excited to give it a try.

ADDITIONAL NOTES/COMMENTS