



Lesson Plan from the Registry: Sharing myDay Connecting Literacy with African-American Heritage

African-American Registry: *Uniting Classrooms through Education, Transforming Communities through Learning*

Introduction: The following lesson, developed for students in grades 7-12, emphasizes practicing reading and written expression skills while giving students the opportunity to bring diversity to their knowledge base as they discover American and African-American history and life through use of the Registry. We introduce students to a broader array of people and events that is available in most standard curriculum. This brings African-American students a sense of pride in the accomplishments of their community and therefore in themselves. For all students this diversification of their knowledge base brings them to a more complete and true picture of American heritage. Knowledge breaks down stereotypes and assists students to learn to live harmoniously in a multi-cultural society.

“Sharing myDay” is a lesson that uses the Registry’s ‘birthday link’ as a source point for self-directed study and research. One of the most important days in any person's life is their birthday. Our 'birthday link' provides people and subjects to read about and share with others through oral and written expression.

Note:

For direct teaching of reading and writing skills as a part of the lesson, please refer to the **Supplementary Lessons: Increasing Literacy Skills**. These supplementary lessons are designed particularly for students with academic deficiencies in the areas of reading decoding, reading fluency, vocabulary and written expression.

Instructional Goals:

Students will increase their knowledge of topics relevant to African-American life and history.

Students will practice reading, written expression and speaking skills

Students will practice relating historical events and people to their own experiences.

Students will explore questions of racial oppression in the past and present

Materials Needed: internet access, access to word processing, PowerPoint (or Keynote) or pen and paper.

Preparation: Explore the 'birthday link' at www.aaregistry.com.

In preparing to introduce the lesson to students do the following, taking notes to use for presenting the lesson:

Click on your own birthday, and pick a topic or person that most interests you and think about why you were attracted to that particular person or topic. Think about the question of what about the person or topic you chose reminds you of yourself or something you have experienced. Also, explore the question of what degree of racial oppression your choice encountered in his/her life or what degree of racial oppression the people described in the event encountered. Further, note to what degree these examples of racial oppression exist in our current society. Prepare a handout with these questions and steps (listed in procedure 2).

If you plan to offer the forum assignment below as an option or requirement, you or one of your students will need to create a forum topic for the first option such as "What was the most inspiring aspect of the entry that you discovered on your day? How does it connect to your own experience?"

Procedures:

1. Gather students in a circle format using a talking piece or in a traditional discussion format. Ask them to respond to one or more of the following questions:

Think about your birthday. What does that day mean to you?

Have you every wondered who else has the same birthday as you or what important events happened on that day?

2. Modeling: Lead students through the steps above that you took using the Registry's 'birthday link'.

They should have the hand-out that you prepared in front of them that includes these steps:

Handout (in Bold)

- **Enter the Registry website at www.aaregistry.org**
- **Click on the 'birthday link' and enter your own birthday.**
- **Choose a topic or a person that most interests you.**

Write notes answering the following questions

- **What about the person or topic you chose reminds you of yourself or something you have experienced**
 - **What kinds of racial oppression did the person you choose encounter or what degree of racial oppression was experienced by the people in the event or topic you chose?**
 - **In what ways and to what degree does that type of racial oppression exist yet today?**

Write an approximately 300 word essay collating your ideas and answers to the above questions.

Pick out four main points from your essay to present to the class in oral format. Practice presenting a two-minute talk to the class with a partner.

Present the two-minute talk to the class.

Optional Activities (include these on the handout if you choose to assign these as required or offer as a bonus assignment.)

1. Log on to the Registry's forum. Post the most inspiring aspects of the entry you selected to report on. Tell why it inspired you and how the person or event connects to your own experience.

2. Note the Registry category of your person/event that you are working with. Listen to two video presentations on the Black Box that fall in the same category. Write a short paragraph the Black Box presenter said describing what.

(Continuing Procedures for Teachers)

3. Read through the handout with the students and check for understanding.

4. Monitor student's progress on the steps presented in the handout.

5. Gather the students in a circle or traditional format to hear the two-minute presentations.

Evaluation Procedure

Monitor attendance and participation in the discussions and presentations.

Student's may self-monitor their behavior and level of participation

Set criteria for grading at the outset and inform students of these criteria, if you choose to give grade evaluations of the essays and presentations