

Lesson Planner

Step 1: Provide basic information to describe the lesson:

Date: April 200_

Teacher Name: Ms. Hall

Grade Level: Special Education

Title of Lesson: Write a Letter to a Famous Person

Content Area: English/Language Arts

Brief description of Lesson: Students will write a friendly letter after studying background information on a designated prominent personality.

Step 2: Set Goals: Students will write a friendly letter to a real person. Grammar skills will be addressed. The students will be able to recall previously learned material, practice writing complete sentences, demonstrate using proper letter format, and show an ability to use proper punctuation.

California Standards: Language arts expository composition, written English language conventions 1.1, 1.4, 1.5.

Step 3: Generate Interest and Discussion: Writing to a real audience always generates interest. Students have already read works by this author and watched a video. Possible questions to ask: why do you suppose he wrote about sad things? Why do you suppose she wrote poetry? Why would you want to know this person? Would you want this person living next door to you?

Step 4: Assess student learning: Did students use correct grammar skills including sentence and paragraph structure as well as proper letter format and punctuation? Did paragraphs contain at least five sentences? Teacher and students will use a scoring rubric to help them pinpoint areas of strength and weakness.

Step 5: Put the lesson in Context: Effort is made to provide common background experiences, for example, stories, plays, videos, and direct teaching, before asking for written feedback. Writing to real people is authentic writing. Special education students profit from multi-media approaches to learning.

Step 6: Specific Learning Activities and Tasks: Students will recall previously learned material, practice writing sentences, show proper letter format, practice proper punctuation, and manage learning in steps using the writing process: draft, revise, edit, rewrite, and prepare final letter.

Step 7: Identify the teaching strategies used: Read short story or excerpts from book, show video, demonstrate, review and reinforce previous learning in a classroom setting. A computer lab will be used, if available.

Step 8: Specify requirements for the learning environment: English classroom or lab setting is used. Students are taught at their individual level of functioning. Teacher will need VCR and video, copies of short stories and excerpts from book by designated writer, and writing materials. A computer lab will be used to reinforce word processing skills for preparing final copies. Samples of real letters should be available for perusal.

Step 9: Evaluate the effectiveness of this lesson: Were students successful in completing the letter project? Was it challenging enough? Too challenging? Were the review, background, and practice experiences sufficient? Did students ask if they could write a second letter to a different person? Would you allow students to individually select the recipient next time instead of all class letters going to the same person?