A lesson plan designed to help students evaluate their interests, values, and goals in order to write their own 6 word memoir.
6 Word Memoirs

Lesson Plan

Learning Objectives:
- Students will identify their personal strengths and assets
- Students will write a personal narrative identifying their strengths.
- Students will work collaboratively in a group.

Materials:
Hang “For Sale” poster on wall, copies of 6 Word Memoir Planning Sheet and 6 Word Memoir recording sheet for each student, writing utensils, computer w/ internet (optional)

Activity:
1. Share with the students the following: “Ernest Hemingway said he wrote his greatest novel in just 6 words:

   "For Sale; baby shoes, never worn."

2. Tell them: “In those 6 short words he can make us think, ask questions, speculate, wonder, and imagine. Who’s baby shoes? What happened to the baby? Did it grow up? Did it die? Did it go barefoot? Is the story about the end of childhood, the end of innocence, or of injustice in the world? What are the images you see in your mind when you hear the story?” Allow discussion.

3. Ask them, “Now what about this story: "I have something to tell you?" Is this person a writer? A teacher? A news anchor? Is it your school counselor asking you to do something?” Allow Discussion.
Activity Continued:

4. Continue by asking the students:

How can you sum up your life's story in just six short words?

Examples:

- I can't is not an option.
- I went travelling, found my home.
- Sharp new yellow pencil. Limitless potential.
- I just go with the flow.
- You can go your own way.
- Don't stand so close to me.
- Life is better in 3D. Usually.
- Every day I wake up screaming.
- I have something to tell you.
- Life can be an amazing ride.

5. Tell students: “Today we are going to sum up our lives in just six short words. I want you to think about how you want others to remember you. As you are doing this, think about the things that are important to you in your life, for example: your family, friends, sports, an event, a vacation, and your goals. Use each other to brainstorm your important qualities and characteristics and use the sheet to help you to string your 6 words together. Remember your goal is to tell your own life story.”

Evaluation: Students will write a 6 word memoir to describe their life and share with their peers.

Follow Up: Collect each student’s memoir and create a Haiku Deck. If you have more time, the student can each create their own slide. (www.haikudeck.com) Here’s one my students did: https://haikudeck.com/p/61GRNXRvOn Share the following week.
“For Sale; baby shoes, never worn”
Use this sheet to help you plan your memoir.

- Words that describe what you look like:
- Words that describe your family:
- What are your interests?
- What are your goals?
- What is important to you?
- What do you value?
- Other things to know about you?
- What words do your friends use to describe you?
6 Word Memoirs

ASCA Mindsets and Behaviors

Category 1: Mindset Standards
School counselors encourage the following mindsets for all students.

1. Belief in development of whole self, including a healthy balance of mental, social/emotional and physical well-being

Category 2: Behavior Standards
Students will demonstrate the following standards through classroom lessons, activities and/or individual/small-group counseling.

Learning Strategies
2. Demonstrate creativity
5. Apply media and technology skills

Social Skills
1. Use effective oral and written communication skills and listening skills
2. Create positive and supportive relationships with other students

NYS Standards

- English Language Arts 6 w3.b w3.d writing narrative
- English Language Arts 6 sl6 command of English Language
- English Language Arts 6 L3 L6 Language Knowledge
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