

Rachel Ricucci

Lesson Plan: Journal Reading and Writing Assignment

Objective: Promotes Critical Writing and Reading Skills

Materials: blank journals, pencils or pens, loose paper, timer

Warm Up Activity:

Brainstorm: Think of three good or bad things that have recently happened that were of a more personal nature. Do this privately on a sheet of loose leaf paper. Pick one idea to journal about and elaborate on.

Introduction and Practice:

Write a journal entry in the classroom journals about one personal happening (one to two paragraphs with ten minutes to write). Do not sign or personalize the entry. Switch journals with another student when done. The teacher may rotate the journals to ensure confidentiality.

Read and respond in writing to the journal entry that your classmate wrote on the next entry of the journal (relating to or commenting on what the person has written with five minutes of writing time).

Students may share what they have read and responded to. The class and teacher will decide on one journal entry/response that was especially detailed or moving or that they learned something from (ten to fifteen minutes).

Informal Assessment:

Questions: What types of interactions or stories would be worthy of being on the big screen or are good enough to develop a novel about? What types of conversations or themes make a good story?

The students will each be asked to briefly comment about what makes a storyline or scenario especially interesting or worth writing/reading about.

The students will then be assigned to begin writing a plot to a movie, short story, or novel based on the journal interaction that the class and teacher chose together. This assignment should be one to two pages in length, written on new sheets of loose leaf paper.