#T.E.A.C.H.
Training Educators and Creating Hope

Group Composition Activities

Choose one of the following activities and design your own lesson following the instructions. Answer the questions that follow.

Activity 1

Engaging students in kinesthetic activities related to the central themes in novels or stories can be a motivating teaching strategy. The following lesson can be easily adapted to any piece of literature.

Objective: To act out a scene from a story.

Method:

- After reading part or all of a piece of literature, ask students to identify the guiding themes, investigate characterization: motivation, plausibility, artistic unity, etc.
- Write the themes on chart paper.
- Ask students to identify ways in which these themes can be expressed beyond text. How could each be portrayed through movement, mime, drama?
- Place students in groups of four or five and ask them to act out a scene from the story, or interpret it through movement, being careful to focus on the central theme of the piece of literature.
- Compare and contrast the different ways the groups interpreted the work.

Activity 2

Students are assigned to small groups where each group is given one or two chapters of a novel or novella. Each group has a period of time to read their chapter, and prepare a skit to summarize the main events of the chapter. After the preparation, each group performs the skit, in chapter sequence. Classmates discuss what they see in each presentation.

Depending on the timeline, students can be encouraged to use small props, and should be given a few minutes to set the stage before they perform. Although students will come up with their own plans, it can be suggested that a narrator is an option.

Assignment Questions:

1. In what ways did this activity provide differentiated instruction for your student groups?
2. What were the differences in the ways the student groups interpreted the work?
3. What did you observe about individual students or groups that will inform future decisions about lesson planning and instruction?
4. If you were to repeat this activity, what would you do differently?