

Project Title: Kindness

Content Standard: Identify ways to be a responsible family member and friend (Alabama Course of Study – Health)

Project Scope: 4 – 5 weeks

Introduction

The purpose of this project is to help students understand and value kindness. Students will evaluate their own attitudes about kindness and the attitudes of others. They will determine how being kind impacts their own lives and the lives of other people. They will present their findings through songs, newspaper articles and comics, commercials, skits, and a mural.

What is the essential question that will engage the students?

How can being kind impact the world?

How will the student teams be formed?

Students will choose teams based on interests in music, art, drama, publishing, writing, and religion.

Identify the key skills students will need in this project:

Groups	Already Learned	Taught before the project	Taught during the project
Newspaper group	Research Skills word processing skills Familiarity with Think.com	Interviewing skills How to brainstorm ideas	The 5 W's for news writing Create a comic strip Cultural awareness
Composers/Lyrics	Research Skills word processing skills Familiarity with Think.com	Recording using Audacity How to brainstorm ideas	Basics of song writing How to write lyrics to songs Cultural awareness
Commercial	Research Skills word processing skills Familiarity with Think.com	Record using a digital video camera How to brainstorm ideas	How to make a storyboard How to make a good commercial Cultural awareness
Skits	Research Skills word processing skills Familiarity with Think.com	Writing a short skit/ How to write dialogue How to brainstorm ideas	Steps for making a good skit Steps for performing a good skit Cultural awareness
Mural	Research Skills word processing skills Familiarity with Think.com Art skills		Cultural awareness How to make a mural

Describe the level of student autonomy that is required in this project

What decisions will they make on their own?

Which decisions are made by the teacher?

1. The teacher will choose the final product based on a survey of student interests.
2. Students will create surveys, message boards, votes as needed to gather content.
3. Students will use their individual interests to make a decision about group membership based on the final product/presentation method (singing, newspaper, commercial, mural, and skit).
4. The teacher will provide activities that teach students about news writing, composing music, lyrics, writing a skit, making a commercial.
5. Students will determine content of final product and creative control over its presentation.

Plan the project

Work Breakdown, Products, and Milestones

Task	Subtask	Direct Instruction	Projected Start Date	Product	Artifact	Milestone
Introduce Kindness		Yes	11/26			
	The Giving Tree Video – Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things				Student responses on Think.com	X
	Role Play				Student responses on Think.com	X
	Survey Review and reflect on activities				Survey Results Responses on Think.com	
Research						
	Interviews	Yes			Notes from interviews	X
	Websites				Website content	X
	Brainstorm Sessions				Student Responses on Think.com	
Kindness Acts						
	Donations to Jessie’s Place				Student reflection	
	Daily kindness acts Kindness Chain				Student reflections	

This project plan is adapted from Oracle Education Foundation’s 21st Century Learning Institute 2007. This project plan was used in the “Kindness is Contagious” project on Think.com.

Newspaper				
	The 5 W's of Writing a news story			
	Newspaper Format		Newspaper Format Worksheet	X
	Interviews	News Article	Notes from interviews	X
	Comic Strip	Comic Strip	Rough draft of comic strip	X
	Publish newspaper	Online newspaper	All rough drafts and notes	
Music				
	Listen to various artists' music			
	Research basics of song writing		Notes from research	
	Write an original song w/music		Notes and rough draft	X
Mural	Examples of murals Sketch and design a mural Paint a mural to be displayed in the school		Sketch of mural	X

Describe how unplanned direct instruction will be managed:

Students will be brought together in small or whole groups as needed.

Student progress will be monitored daily by listening to conversations among groups and through conversations with group leaders.

List any special activities:

Activity	Date	Has activity been scheduled?
Kindness Kids' Kick-Off	Nov. 26, 07	Yes
Donations to Jessie's Place	Dec. 17, 07	Yes
Celebrate Kindness Day	January 8, 08	Yes

List resources that will be required during the project:

Video camera, digital cameras, Internet, keyboard, props, CD player, headsets with microphones, sound system for presentations

List and define the roles of the team members.

Role	Description
Newspaper	Reporters, comic strip creator, editor, art work, photographer
Composers/Lyrics for original song	Composer for music, writers for lyrics, sound technician, producer, director, singer(s), back-up singer(s)
Mural	Designers, art work
Skit	Actors/Actresses, director, producer, props
Commercial	Actors/Actresses, camera person, producer, director, props

Reviews and Checkpoints

Review and checkpoints will occur as noted in the chart above.

The Do Phase Project Launch

1. Students will participate in a survey about kindness prior to beginning the project and determine their own attitude regarding kindness. (A final survey will be done at the end of the project).

The project launch has 3 parts:

- I. Watch the video, "Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things" (YouTube).

Introduction:

"You have been chosen to be extraordinary. The people in this video were ordinary people with great ideas. Do you think an ordinary person change the world? How can being kind change a person's life?"

Sometimes we have to step outside of our comfort zone to discover things about ourselves and other people. You will be discovering how people feel about kindness. Most of all you will discover how you feel about kindness. You will think about what kindness really means. You will make important decisions about the kind of person you want to be.

During your activities, some will make a kindness newspaper, some will make a commercial, some will write poems, some will present skits, some will sing, some will dance, and show many other special talents. The theme of the event, of course, is "Celebrate Kindness".

The celebration at the end of this unit really is just the beginning of becoming a person who is kind. We want this message to spread to people around you...because the KINDNESS IS CONTAGIOUS."

- II. Student leader will read "The Giving Tree"

Class will discuss and post comments on the Message Board

- III. Role Play –

1. Cut the role play situations into strips and place them in a hat.
2. Student groups will pull their role play from a hat.
3. Students will brainstorm ways in which they will act out the role play situations
 - a. Do not show kindness
 - b. Show kindness
4. Students will have a whole group discussion about how they felt when
 - a. They were kind
 - b. They were not kind
5. Students will further discuss their feelings on the Message Board

Group 1

There is a new student in your school. They are very shy and quiet. They do not have any school supplies and you know they are homeless.

Your classmates are calling this person names and laughing at them during lunch. What would you do?

- **Group 2**

You have two younger brothers who want to go everywhere with you. They admire you because you're older. You are going over to your best friend's house to play and they want to come with you. What would you do?

- **Group 3**

Your next door neighbor is an elderly person. He can barely walk, but he likes to be outside. He tries to take care of his yard, but it looks very shabby. Many of the kids in your neighborhood make fun of him, throw trash into his yard, and ride their bikes through his property. What would you do?

- **Group 4**

Your best friend is suddenly not talking to you. Even worse, they are making fun of you to other people. What would you do?

- **Group 5**

You are playing on a sports team. One of your team mates doesn't play very well. Some of the others on your team ignore him or her. They make comments that the person is hurting the team. What would you do?

Step 2

Students will review the rubrics that will be used for assessment purposes.

Songs - http://rubistar.4teachers.org/index.php?screen=ShowRubric&rubric_id=1543726&

Commercial - http://rubistar.4teachers.org/index.php?screen=ShowRubric&rubric_id=1543721&

Newspaper - http://rubistar.4teachers.org/index.php?screen=ShowRubric&rubric_id=1543717&

Mural - http://rubistar.4teachers.org/index.php?screen=ShowRubric&rubric_id=1545767&

Skit – <http://www.bibbed.org/wbes/cubscorner.html>

Presentation - http://rubistar.4teachers.org/index.php?screen=ShowRubric&module=Rubistar&rubric_id=1510803&

Students will create surveys, message boards, votes, brainstorm sessions, debates to gather content.

Students will research kindness and create their own set of kindness tips.

Step 3

Students will begin to construct the final product:

Introduction to newspaper writing/publishing

1. "What makes people interested in reading this story?"

2. The 5 W's of news writing

3. Choose roles within the group

4. Research how to complete the role – reporter, comic strip creator, publisher, editor, artwork/graphics/photography

5. Publish the newspaper

Composer/Lyrics/Singers

1. Research the basics of song writing/how to make a good song

2. Use your kindness tips to determine your kindness related topic for your song

3. Determine roles – lyrics/music

4. Write lyrics

5. Write melody

6. Determine performance roles

7. Record song

Commercials

1. Brainstorm - What makes a good commercial?
2. Use your kindness tips to choose a kindness related topic for your commercial
3. Email University of Alabama communications department – what makes a good commercial?
4. Use response to brainstorm ideas about your commercial
5. Create storyboard
6. Determine roles
7. Record commercial

Skits

1. Brainstorm ideas for your skit's topic – look at your kindness tips
2. Determine the setting for your skit
3. Determine the events that will occur
4. Determine roles and characters
5. Write the dialogue for the skit
6. Practice the performance

Culminating Product

Describe the culminating product or products that will be created during the project and how they will be presented.

All final products will be presented during the “Celebrate Kindness Day” and will be available on the school website.

1. Newspapers will be distributed to all students and parents who attend and students will talk about how they created the newspaper.
2. Songs will be performed
3. Commercials will be shown on a projection device and posted on the school website.
4. Mural will be display in the school.
5. Skits will be performed.

Describe Assessment for Culminating Product:

Rubrics will be used for assessment:

Songs - http://rubistar.4teachers.org/index.php?screen=ShowRubric&rubric_id=1543726&

Commercial - http://rubistar.4teachers.org/index.php?screen=ShowRubric&rubric_id=1543721&

Newspaper - http://rubistar.4teachers.org/index.php?screen=ShowRubric&rubric_id=1543717&

Mural - http://rubistar.4teachers.org/index.php?screen=ShowRubric&rubric_id=1545767&

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THE REVIEW PHASE

Student Reflection and Evaluation

Describe how student reflection and evaluation will be conducted.

Students will take the survey about kindness again and determine if their attitude about kindness has changed due to participation in the project.

Students will reflect and review on the Message Board on Think.com.

The student will evaluate themselves using the rubric.

Students will determine their own attitude regarding kindness through brainstorming, message boards, votes, and self-reflection after completion of project.

Teacher Reflection and Evaluation

Describe how teacher reflection and evaluation will be conducted.

The teacher will reflect and review on Think.com/determine changes that should be made to the project.

Anonymous teacher evaluation by students will be included.

