

Title of Session: Learning From Lyrics

Moderator: Johnathan Chase

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Date: September 16, 2008

Room: Learning From Lyrics Group

BJB2: John, ready for introductions?

JohnathanC: sure

NellyB: yes

BJB2: Please let John know where you are located and what you teach or hope to teach

MirandahO: I teach ELD levels 1, 2, and 3 and English 7 (7th grade) in Encinitas, California. Encinitas is in the north part of San Diego.

NellyB: I am located on Houston and I am planning to teach on an elementary school

BJB2: I'm in Pennsylvania and am a retired communications teacher

JohnathanC: Central NY 7/8 social studies

BJB2 . o O (brevity is the soul of wit!)

BJB2 winks at John

JohnathanC: What does ELD stand for?

MirandahO: English Language Development; instead of referring to it as ESL this is more politically correct according to CA

JohnathanC: ok

MirandahO: I meant according to our department of education :)

JohnathanC: So have either of you used songs in any lessons?

JohnathanC: Nelly have you student taught yet?

NellyB: no yet but I hear they can be excellent tools

MirandahO: We sing and dance, I make up songs and dances to help with learning objectives, but they are not legitimate songs.

JohnathanC: I use songs primarily to help students with writing and critical thinking skills

MirandahO: Do you prefer a certain genre of music?

JohnathanC: Also as a way to introduce social and emotional learning aka character education

JohnathanC: I draw from many styles

NellyB: What about for developing math skills?

MirandahO: I don't quite understand what you mean by character education. Are you referring to character analysis in writing?

BJB2 . o O (character ed as in ethical behavior)

BJB2 hopes she isn't putting words in John's mouth

MirandahO: Thanks! I think it is similar to Character Counts

JohnathanC: Yes

JohnathanC: I was just looking for some math resources

JohnathanC: <http://www.songsforteaching.com/mathsongs.htm>

JohnathanC: <http://www.science-groove.org/MASSIVE/>

BJB2 checks to see if Mirandah and Nelly are getting the urls

MirandahO: I am

NellyB: yes, thanks. I am looking to the websites right now

JohnathanC: <http://www.mathwire.com/music/music.html>

MirandahO: So, how do you teach character education through songs?

JohnathanC: I try to blend character education with social studies content to help my students "relate" to history.

NellyB: How do you use the songs into your lessons?

JohnathanC: I begin with small tasks and then expand to larger assignments

JohnathanC: Let's begin

MirandahO: Do you focus on certain character traits, such as respect?

MirandahO: nevermind, I am sure you will answer that!

JohnathanC: Check out this link

JohnathanC: First read the directions and the lyrics, if we were class there would also be a short reading on healthy risk-taking and of course we would listen to the song

JohnathanC: Then slowly scroll through the student works

JohnathanC: <http://www.learningfromlyrics.org/cope.htm>

NellyB: It is awesome the quality and the content of the students work

JohnathanC: Do you both have DSL or high speed internet?

NellyB: yes

MirandahO: I think DSL. I like the students' perspectives; are they in 8th grade?

JohnathanC: these activities were done by 8th through tenth graders

MirandahO: Just wondering. The life experiences they are writing about is very different from the kids at my school, but I see how a similar lesson can be adapted using the same end product.

JohnathanC: here is a rap version of the song...

JohnathanC: Citizen Cope is the original artist and Rhymefest added some rap lyrics

JohnathanC: <http://music.aol.com/video/bullet-featuring-citizen-cope-and-mark/rhymefest/1452616>

MirandahO: Do you use any songs from the 60's or 70's? I was just thinking that could be tied with the world history and US history curriculum.

JohnathanC: sure especially the Vietnam Era

JohnathanC: So we start talking about healthy risk taking, but how do I connect that to content in social studies?

JohnathanC: any ideas?

MirandahO: Choices that governments and people make in the past

JohnathanC: yes

MirandahO: Looking at choices for today, and what could be considered healthy risk taking

JohnathanC: examples of risk-takers from the past

MirandahO: It might be good to also look at today's leaders and situations facing them; that might be difficult though

JohnathanC: true

NellyB: Depending of the place where the school is located. Students have to make these kind of choices daily

JohnathanC: and think before they act

MirandahO: Definitely

JohnathanC: but history can teach us that great achievements come from taking risks

JohnathanC: Here is the activity

MirandahO: common theme that can be connected to healthy risk taking lyrics...

NellyB: Songs allow students to experiment (taking risks)

JohnathanC: I set the bar very high and give them several documents to respond to and when you read their essays you can tell they get it

JohnathanC: <http://www.learningfromlyrics.org/lewisandclark.htm>

MirandahO: I like it! Thanks for sharing

JohnathanC: One more thing to share

JohnathanC: students love recognition and I have found a way to use the web to share my students work with others and also allow people to give them feedback

JohnathanC: ideas?

MirandahO: Tapped in?

MirandahO: blogs?

MirandahO: Internet penpals?

BJB2: good ideas!

JohnathanC: good answers

MirandahO: I give up...

JohnathanC: check out the comments on the page and also check out the Blog near the top of this page called "bullet and a target" and be sure to read the comments

JohnathanC: <http://www.myspace.com/learningfromlyrics>

MirandahO: Interesting, the Matchbox 20 link seems like it would be good for my student population.

MirandahO: The projects are amazing!

JohnathanC: students love to create

NellyB: I couldn't believe the power and the force of lyrics in the classroom. It is inspirational

BJB2 smiles...I told you John does amazing things!

JohnathanC: not me.....the students!

BJB2: The next Learning From Lyrics is October 21

MirandahO: Is there a link that lists appropriate song ideas for middle school?

BJB2: you are their guide, John.

NellyB: Thanks for the web addresses for my math class.

MirandahO: ...as well for English and social studies!

BJB2: try this, Mirandah <http://www.learningfromlyrics.org/Introduction.html>

MirandahO: thanks!

BJB2: I recommend you join this group...

BJB2: and come back and look at the resources John has posted in this room

JohnathanC: <http://www.siblproject.org/>

MirandahO: How do I do that?

NellyB: I will do that.

JohnathanC: bye

JohnathanC: thanks

MirandahO: How do I join the group?

BJB2: if you have detached your chat, find the web window or re-attach

BJB2: thanks, John!

JohnathanC left the room (signed off).

BJB2: at the top of the web window is a welcome note

BJB2: the third line down in the welcome note is This is the group room for Learning From Lyrics

BJB2: click on the green i next to the group name

BJB2: you will see the group ID page

BJB2: at the top of the ID page select Join this group

BJB2: and you're joined!

MirandahO: I see it! Thanks!

BJB2: you're welcome, Mirandah. Thanks for participating

MirandahO: Have a great night!

BJB2 waves goodnight