

Combined ideas for Lang Arts PBI

Suggestions from *The High Performance Toolbox*, S. Rogers & S. Graham (2000)

Performance Based Ideas for Language Arts

1. Produce an orientation video for new students.
2. Use writing, speech, music, and photos to present family folklore.
3. Develop and share children's stories that convey a relevant message.
4. In writing or speech, summarize a piece of significant nonfiction writing in order to convey the essential points to a specific audience.
5. Select a particular topic and find examples of presentations in different media concerning that topic. Identify the media that you feel best serves the topic and justify your selection.
6. Develop and explain a visual which compares/contrasts characteristics in literature with people you actually know.
7. Research children's literature in order to identify the salient characteristics. Interview young children to identify what they like about professionally produced children's books. Then, create an original children's story that adheres to the findings of our research. Share your story with young readers and if possible have them either illustrate your story or at least help you with the illustrations.
8. Develop and present a visual biographical timeline.
9. Create an audio tape of the most important sounds in your life. Write a narrative describing the sounds and exploring their importance to you.
10. Write a descriptive essay about a family heirloom or tradition of special significance. Include your selection in the class book entitled *What It Means to be a Family*.

Incorporating Technology, Science, and Language Arts

1. Describe through example, how familiar technologies can have positive and negative impacts on the environment and on the way people live and work. Make recommendations based on the findings.

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Incorporating Science, Language Arts, and Social Studies

1. Adopt an endangered species and develop and share an analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of protecting and not protecting it.
2. Investigate the effects of alterations on cultural and/ or physical landscapes (e.g., construction of a mall, changes in local traffic patterns, rezoning from residential to commercial, etc.) in order to develop recommendations for how to maximize benefits and minimize disadvantages.

Incorporating Science and Language Arts

1. Develop, through research, a proposal to test a hypothesis of a given concept. Submit the proposal to an appropriate panel of judges who will rate the proposal on clarity appropriateness, and feasibility.
2. Research a planet and create an imaginary life form that could exist in that environment. Interview the “creature” about life on the planet and write an article for the human interest section of the Sunday paper.

Incorporating Math and Language Arts

1. Given data on graphs, write a story that represents the data or graph.
2. Given headlines or claims with background data, explain whether or not the claims are reasonable.

Incorporating Language Arts, Social Studies, and Math Ideas for PBI

1. Publish a newsletter portraying inaccurate perceptions being created through misuses of statistical procedures.
2. Study a wide range of magazines, newspapers, televised commentaries, and the like. Identify several issues of interest, watch and read widely about these issues, chart the various viewpoints on each issue, and discuss the information supporting each.

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Incorporating Language Arts and Social Studies Ideas

1. Put a famous person in history on trial in light of what is known today.
2. Develop a position and support it with music, art, an historical event, and poetry.
3. Take famous quotes and explain why they are still important
4. Identify and research a famous historical personality in order to role-play that person. Write a biographical entry and present yourself to your classmates/parents. Clearly portray your historical contributions. Identify what have seen significant effects of your life's contributions on today's society- explain and justify your thoughts.
5. Write a modern day myth that incorporates what we have learned in our study of mythology. Then explain what your myth reveals about mankind and society today.
6. Research a current topic, write an article that accurately reflects your findings, write an editorial, and draw an editorial cartoon.
7. Using published cartoons as a central vehicle, present a position and support for it.
8. Use at least 5 persuasion techniques in either writing or speaking to endorse a position; assess the effectiveness of our efforts and explain why you used the techniques the way you did based on the conditions inherent in the task.
9. In writing or speech, express a conclusion regarding an issue based on the results of comparing, contrasting, and evaluating the points of view of two authors or speakers.
10. Recreate an historical period. (Identify and explain connections- then make predictions based on patterns.)
11. Compare/ Contrast information about an event in the news with information about the same topic from a different medium such as magazine, documentary film, or Internet. (e.g., the attack by the United States on Iraq in September, 1996) Support your conclusions regarding similarities and differences.
12. Compare a literary representation of an historical period to actual documented information. (e.g., *The Grapes of Wrath*- The Great Depression) Present your supported opinions as to why there is or is not a discrepancy concerning...

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13. Create an original drama showcasing the dominant philosophies, artistic works, occupations and social class distinctions of an historical period.
14. Studying a period in history through the eyes of a child can present a very interesting and sometimes very surprising point of view. Become a child during WWII and write a diary in which you record how and why the events of the war affected your life. A few perspectives that might prove interesting are children of the Resistance, children of Oriental heritage living in California, children in Pearl Harbor, Hiroshima, or London during the bombings.
15. Assume the role of a newspaper reporter in 1862. You have been given the assignment of interviewing one of the women or men who have journeyed westward and settled in the new territories. The newspaper wants you to submit a “human interest” article by describing what life was for these people and by sharing your conclusions about gender roles during westward expansion.

Major Interdisciplinary Performances Ideas

1. Collect news reports from overseas, and in groups work to produce an international newspaper that reflects the perspectives in foreign countries with those in the United States.
2. Produce a well supported recommendation to consumers based on a study of “truth in advertising.”
3. Write and share or perform stories/ plays around real-world problems and solutions.
4. Based on a survey of at least 20 students and 10 parents of children between the ages of 5 and 10, determine the predominant position in your sample toward regulating violence in cartoons on Saturday mornings. Develop and present a position paper to be presented to your local television station that represents this predominant position and supports it using the constitution and recent court rulings.
5. Create and operate a micro-society.