

PERSHING MURAL PROJECT CURRICULUM

Learning From the Past, Understanding the Present, and Discovering the Future



THE PERSHING MURAL ~ A NEBRASKA CULTURAL LANDMARK

Exploring Architecture: Meet the Architect

This lesson is part of the three-part study of Architecture in which the students will meet the architect charged with creating the free-standing installation of the Pershing Mural at Wyuka Park. The students will be asked to write a newspaper article for their school newspaper based on an interview with the architect.

Included in this Lesson:

- Lesson Plan: Exploring Architecture: Meet the Architect
- Power Point: Meet the Architect!

Nebraska Standards Addressed:

Present: SS 6.4.3.a Identify how differing experiences can lead to the development of perspectives.

Respond: L.A.5.W.2 Use a recursive writing process to develop, strengthen, and produce writing appropriate to the audience

Create: EP6. Use English structures to communicate context-specific messages.

Connect: LA5.W.4C Use words, phrases and key vocabulary to connect ideas

Present: LA.5.W.3B Use precise words and phrases, descriptive/sensory details, dialogue and sensory language to convey thoughts, feelings, experiences, and events

Create: LA.5.W.3 Write creative and/or pieces that describe well-developed event or experience.

Objectives:

- The students will be able to create a piece of writing that enhances the reader's understanding of key ideas and information.
- The students will be able to use effective introductory and concluding sentences, logical sequencing of ideas and transitional words to write a newspaper article.
- The students will be able to connect relevant descriptions, observations and information derived from an interview to link paragraphs and ideas to write a clear message for the reader.
- The students will be able to edit their news article using correct punctuation, sentence structure, spelling, and language usage.

Grade Level:

Written at 6th Grade Level (educators are encouraged to adjust the lesson to meet needs of Pre-K to 12th Grade)

Materials Needed:

Access to interview with Michelle McCullough
Writing materials and/or computer/tablet
Resources materials (dictionary, Thesaurus, etc.)
Examples of newspaper articles from a local paper

Time Requirement:

2-3 (50-minute) class sessions

Vocabulary:

Headline: Usually in large type, it tells what the story or article is about.

Byline: It gives the name of the author of the article and will usually be directly below the article headline.

Lead: The opening paragraph of a news story that grabs the interest of the reader to encourage them to read further.

Body: This is the main section of the news article and includes lots of important information and detail. It should usually be 3-4 paragraphs long.

Ending: Conclude the story with general information or repeat a main point or angle of the story in a different way. You can end with a quote, statistic, fact, or prediction that relates to your topic.

Direct Instruction:

Newspapers have been in circulation since the early 17th century and have become an important source of information. They are part of our daily routine and can be a vital link to the outside world. Reading the newspaper daily, either in paper form or digitally, helps use to learn new things and keep up-to-date with what is happening in our community and world.

Below are ten major advantages of reading the news paper as part of our daily routine that appears on the JBM Global School website at:

<https://jbms.in/10-benefits-of-reading-newspaper-for-students/>

- **Updates General Knowledge:** the newspaper has sections focusing on various topics and themes, covering current events, politics, culture, entertainment, science, and technology. Reading the newspaper is a way to keep well-informed.
- **Enriches Vocabulary and Language Skills:** reading the newspaper is a great way to learn new words and understand how they are used. It helps us to be life-long learners.
- **Better Reading Speed and Comprehension:** by reading news articles, we learn to analyze and evaluate written pieces to help us form our own opinions. We become better students.
- **Awareness of Current Affairs:** when you are aware of current events, you are able to strike up conversations of substance.
- **Expand Your World:** newspapers not only covers local news, but also focus on international news. Reading the newspaper gives you

a broader perspective on what is taking place in our country and world. It also helps us appreciate and understand cultural diversity.

- **Boosts Writing Skills:** good readers become avid readers. The more students are exposed to well-written articles, editorials and opinion pieces, the better their writing skills will become. They learn about style, structure, and persuasive techniques used by professional journalists.
- **Offer Cognitive Benefits:** reading regularly encourages better memory, good concentration, improved problem-solving abilities, creative thinking, and logical reasoning.
- **Useful Ideas About Research and Projects:** newspaper reading can provide valuable information for research for students.
- **Career Advancement:** students become well-informed through newspaper reading and gives them tools they can use in their further education and careers in the future.
- **Connection with Community:** the local section of the newspaper helps students connect with their communities to be updated about the events taking place in their own backyards. It encourages a sense of belonging.

Reporters are always on the lookout for breaking news stories, events and happenings in the community and beyond, including human-interest stories. Regardless of the type of article that is being written, there are typically some basic elements newspaper reporters/writers use when writing their articles.

A news report should include the following:

- **Headline** (tells what the story is about)
- **Byline** (lists the name of the writer of the story)
- **Lead** (gives the most important facts about the story and gets the interest of the reader)
- **Body** (gives extra details about the event/subject)
- **Ending** (gives up wrap-up summary)

Regardless of the type of news article being written, it should always include the facts of the story that catch the readers' attention but also provide information in paragraph form. It is helpful and interesting if the story includes interview quotes. These stories are usually written in third person.

Guided and Independent Practice:

The students will view and take notes on the Power Point “Meet the Architect” which focuses on the career of Michelle McCullough, the architect for the Pershing Mural installation at Wyuka. Following the Power Point, class discussion should take place.

Discussion Questions:

- What were some of the facts or quotes from Michelle McCullough’s interview that you found interesting and newsworthy?
- What new information did you learn from her interview about architecture that you didn’t know before?
- What were some of the challenges she has faced being the Project Architect for the Pershing Mural Assignment?
- What kinds of skills do you need to be an effective architect?
- What were three interesting facts and insights you learned about being an architect from the interview.
- What was our impression of Mass Design Group and the work they have done in Rwanda? How was the work they completed more than just designing buildings?
- Were you surprised that being an architect is much more than just designing buildings? What else goes into the art and science of architecture?

- 1) Based on the interview of Michelle McCullough and class discussion, the students will be asked to write a newspaper article for their school paper.
- 2) Students should be encouraged to rewatch the Power Point to formulate ideas for their news story, focusing on facts, quotes, and insights.
- 3) Once they decide the direction they wish to go with their story, they should write a rough draft.
- 4) The students are encouraged to edit, rewrite and check for proper use of grammar, punctuation and spelling. It is always a good idea for the students to have a peer read their story and offer feedback.
- 5) Once they are satisfied with their work, the students will turn in their story for grading.

The students' articles should include:

- 1) Headline
- 2) Byline
- 3) Lead—opening sentence/paragraph to grab interest
- 4) Body—should be at least 3 paragraphs long. The body should include information about Michelle's work on the Pershing Mural but can also include information about her background, interests, etc.
- 5) Students should include at least one or two quotes from Michelle in their story.
- 6) Ending—wrap up the article to summarize or end with a quote.

Discussion Questions:

- What did you learn from writing a news story?
- How is writing a news story different from writing a short story for literature?
- What process did you go through to decide on a headline for your article?
- Do you think you grabbed the reader's attention with your headline?
- Did you feel pride in having your name as the byline on your article?
- What strategy did you use to make your lead sentence/paragraph attention-grabbing and interesting?
- How did you decide on the quote(s) to use in your article?
- Do you think you'd like to be a news reporter or write articles for a newspaper?

Evaluation:

The students will be evaluated on:

- 1) Incorporating the elements of a news story in the assignment (headline, byline, lead, body, and ending)
- 2) Including quotes from Michelle in their story
- 3) Including information/facts about Michelle's work on the Pershing Mural
- 4) Accuracy of their news story based on Michelle's interview
- 5) Interest for the subject matter they were able to generate in their story
- 6) Length of the story being at least three paragraphs long

- 7) Correct use of grammar, punctuation and spelling
- 8) Good use of class time

Closure:

Michelle McCullough’s interview provided really helpful information about her career as an architect and the work she has undertaken. By writing a news story about Michelle and her career, students are able to share her insights and story with a much larger audience. Newspapers, either in print or digital, are a great way for us to be informed and stay connected with our community and world.

Resources:

Ten Benefits of Reading Newspapers for Students, JBM Global School,
<https://jbms.in/10-benefits-of-reading-newspaper-for-students/>

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