

House Plan Lesson Plan

All good writing begins with the self. For a while, take time for some reflection.

Objective: The purpose is to explore how each individual writes: how we are alike, and how we are different. The focus is especially on what works to make writing easier. In addition, students will discover many topics for narrative stories.

Materials: construction paper of all sizes and colors, markers, colored pencils, pens, pencils, scissors, glue

Day One

Step One:

1. For the 40 minutes or so, you have the opportunity to develop a house plan. Choose a house or apartment in your memory -- your own, a grandfather's, a special friend's - but a place you know well.
2. Draw a floor plan of the house, the out-of-doors, a special covey, a special room - - the most memorable part that comes to mind. Draw and label as many details as you can remember.
3. It is important that you go within to enjoy the memory. Today, it is wise to focus on happy memories. Take about 15-20 minutes to think, to remember, to enjoy sketching with a variety of pens, pencils and markers.

Day Two

Step Two:

1. Choose a partner.
2. Take turns walking your partner through your houseplan, pointing out and talking about special rooms, objects, and the activities you remembered for 15-20 minutes. As you talk, you may add things that you remember.
3. Take a few minutes when you finish sharing to write or draw any new ideas that come to mind.

Step Three:

1. Select something interesting from your plan.
2. Think and write about it for 15 minutes.

Day Three

Step Four:

1. Divide the class into small groups of 3's or 4's.
2. Give each person time to share a portion of his/her writing for 15-20 minutes. (Some parts may be too private to share.)

Step Five:

As a group, begin to examine the writing process the individuals experienced through discussion of the experience. Talk through selected questions to focus the discussion. (15 minutes):

- How did you begin?
- How did you know that was the beginning?
- What choices did you make?
- How did you make decisions?

- Were you anxious? Rate your reaction from comfortable to uncomfortable.
- What did you learn?
- Did you question why you were doing what you were doing?
- How did sharing with a partner affect your work?
- How did drawing a picture first help or hurt your writing?
- How did you feel about the time limitations? How does time affect your work?
- Were you finished? How do you know when your writing is finished?
- Where's the responsibility for learning?

Follow Up

1. Use the house plans as topic lists. Students can glue them into their daybooks or make a book of the plans.
2. Use the assessment you gained from Step Five – Reflection. Differentiate based on the answers you heard in the reflection circle.