

Unit Outline: Magazine Book Report

Grade: 6-8

Subject: Language Arts (writing, reading & media), Visual Arts (drawing)

Timeline: 5-6 weeks (approx. 25 hours)

Unit Context: The subtasks outlined are designed to build skills and concepts that students demonstrate in the culminating task. Students develop a theme magazine based on a novel of their choice. The aim is for students to develop skills in reasoning, communication, organization, and the application of language conventions. Students will also explore various media components such as magazines and movie posters.

Unit Summary: Students engage in a variety of activities including: examining the components and structures of a magazine; writing a feature persuasive article regarding their novel; practising research and writing a biography; creating engaging advertising; characterization and interview skills; writing a letter; and developing a comic strip. Students also create a cover for their magazine in the form of a collage using existing magazines.

Materials: Students will be given a duotang at the beginning of the unit that will act as their magazine. All handouts will be stored in there as well as the final copy of each task. The students will use old magazines and art supplies to create the cover of their magazine directly on the front of their duotang. Laptops or a computer lab will be needed for the biography component.

Technology: It is up to the teacher's discretion whether or not computers or technology will be used during the production of each magazine component. The internet will only be needed for the research component of the biography.

Assessment/Evaluation: Ongoing assessment will occur using the tracking sheet given to each student at the beginning of the unit. Students will need a teacher's initial to signify that each component is complete. When receiving this initial teachers have the opportunity to provide ongoing feedback and comments for students to take into account before submitting the final draft. The final draft will be assessed using a rating scale that totals 100.

Differentiation: Students will have the option of selecting any novel they wish in order for self differentiation. Teacher's will conference with each student to ensure that the grade level is appropriate. Adjustments may need to be made for exceptional students and individual IEP's will need to be consulted. Adjustments could include more frequent use of laptops for typing and text to speech programs while researching. Modifications could include a reduced number of required components, shorter length requirements for components and more detailed graphic organizers.

Extensions: Students will also have a component of free choice in which they can include extra sections that are commonly found in magazines such as contest ideas, other advertisements, questionnaires, recipes, games, etc.