



SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

AUTHORITY FIGURE BIOGRAPHY

By Dawn Scroggins

Activity Description

This activity could be a culminating activity for the *Foundations of Democracy, Authority* text. Children will brainstorm a list of leaders or authority figures, including those from home, school, local, state, or past or present national leaders. Each child is to choose a leader about whom to write a biography. The biography may be a book or poster about the leader or authority figure.

If students need help with writing, teachers should ask parents or older students to help with this project.

Information may include the following:

- a picture of the authority figure
- the position of authority held by the figure
- the source of the person's authority
- the duties of the authority figure
- an example of a rule this authority figure made
- determination of whether this authority figure made good rules or bad rules, based on what students have learned
- determination of whether the person ever uses power without authority

After completing this project, children could be invited to share their books or posters with the class. Loved ones, family members, or other students could be invited to a reception for the student authors during which the biographies are on display. Cookies and punch could be served.

Suggested Grade Level

Primary

Estimated Time to Complete

One week

Objectives

- Students will demonstrate an understanding of authority, as presented in *Orb and Effy Learn About Authority*.
- Students will identify important leaders/authority figures.

Materials Needed

1. Chart paper for recording student brainstorming
2. Reference book
3. Paper for students' books or posters (you may want to create templates)
4. Crayons, pencils, or markers
5. Stapler or binding material