



SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

FOUND POEM
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Activity Description

Students will use key words and phrases from their current lesson/unit of study to create a poem. An example follows.

Suggested Grade Level

Elementary or middle school

Estimated Time to Complete

30–45 minutes

Objective

Students will identify key words and phrases in the text.

Materials Needed

1. Paper
2. Pencils
3. Text

Activity Procedures

Give the following instructions to your students.

1. Select between nine and twelve words or phrases from the portion of the text we just studied.
2. Each phrase must be six words or fewer.
3. You will use these words and phrases to create a poem. The poem must have between ten and fifteen lines.
4. Each line must have eight or fewer words.
5. You can repeat words or groups of words. You can leave words out.
6. You can't change the order of words in the phrase.
7. You can't add new words.

Example:

John Locke

Edward Hicks? *The Peaceable Kingdom*? What if there
were no rules, laws, or government?
Had chance to think? Life would be difficult...
People might try to take away people's rights.
People might have natural rights...but not be safe.
Hard to live safe, peaceful, happy life.
State of nature? Solve the problems...make a
Social contract! Set up government. Give up something!
Give up some freedom. Consent. The people gain
protection! Government protects their rights! RIGHTS!
People feel safer. Live more secure, happier lives.
Purpose of government? Protect rights to
life, liberty, and property. LIFE! LIBERTY! AND PROPERTY!