



SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

CIVICS HAIKU

By Jim Bentley

Activity Description

Students will read any of the SVPDP curricula and summarize key concepts by writing haiku.

A haiku is a seventeen-syllable poem that can be used as a summary technique. Due to its brevity, it's best used to summarize a specific paragraph of text or a single concept or vocabulary term. It requires students to carefully revisit text to ponder important words, phrases, or concepts and to synthesize their meaning into a brief, poetic form. Students might compare this form of poetry to online communiqués such as one hundred-forty character online “Tweets.”

Suggested Grade Level

Elementary through high school

Estimated Time to Complete

30 minutes

Objective

- Students will reread text and briefly summarize key concepts, sections of text, or vocabulary terms.

Materials Needed

- SVPDP curricula (optional)
- Pencils
- Paper
- Haiku structure handout (below) and/or sample haiku

Activity Procedures

1. The teacher should assign small sections of text, individual paragraphs, or individual vocabulary terms, for the subject of students' haiku. I often ask students to write multiple haiku for a single topic so that they can select their favorite to share with the class.
2. Teachers should review the three-line, 5-7-5 syllable format with students as well as share examples of haiku. Many samples are available online. Teachers may also wish to discuss the poetic technique of “enjambment” where a line of poetry is carried over to the next line.

Haiku Worksheet

Haiku has...

Title

3 lines:

5 syllables

7 syllables

5 syllables

sensory detail,
deep insight into
nature or...
human nature
