



SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

A TUGGING STRING
WRITING ROULETTE
By Heather Cagle

Activity Description

Students will read *A Tugging String: A Novel About Growing Up During the Civil Rights Era* by David Greenberg. Incorporating a vocabulary list and rotating the creation of information so everyone gets to contribute, groups will write a present-day news story about the book's main character.

Suggested Grade Level

Middle (6–8)

Estimated Time to Complete

30 minutes

Objectives

Students will

- be able to identify changes that have occurred in the United States since the Civil Rights Era;
- define key vocabulary associated with the civil rights movement.

Materials Needed

- Paper
- Writing utensils
- *A Tugging String: A Novel About Growing Up During the Civil Rights Era* by David Greenberg

Activity Procedures

1. After reading the novel, put students in mixed-ability groups of approximately six students. Explain to students that, as a team, they will be writing a present-day news story about the main character of the book, David Duvy Greenberg.
2. Give students a list of vocabulary that should be used in the story.
3. Instruct students to begin writing their news article on a piece of paper. Give students three minutes to write, and then they will pass their paper to the left and continue writing where the previous writer stopped. This process will continue until the student has gotten back their original story.
4. When students have gotten back their original story, give students four minutes to wrap up their article.
5. Ask the group to decide which story was the best out of their group and share it with the class.