



SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

TWO-VOICE POEM

By Jim Bentley

Activity Description

Students create a two-voice poem to summarize key concepts from selected SVPDP curriculum.

Two-voice poems are meant to be performed aloud. An excellent introduction is *Joyful Noise* by Paul Fleischman (ISBN: 978-0-06446-093-4). Students can practice reading aloud two-voice poems in pairs or in front of the class.

When preparing to write a two-voice poem, a teacher might suggest the following:

- poems should be written to summarize a key concept from a lesson from the SVPDP curriculum;
- poems may quote sections of text, but should also contain original ideas and writing;
- poems' voices should be balanced so that one speaker does not dominate;
- poems can be written in the form of a rap.

This can be done as an in-class activity where partners collaborate on a single poem. The benefit to this is that students revisit the text together, discuss the concepts they wish to address, and collaborate on the writing. A two-voice poem can also be done as a take-home activity. This would require the teacher to allow students time to pick partners and practice the poem prior to an in-class performance.

Suggested Grade Level

Primary through high school

Estimated Time to Complete

30 minutes

Objectives

Students will

- reread text and summarize key concepts in writing;
- expressively read aloud poems, modulating intonation and pacing.

Materials Needed

- Two-voice poem template (blank one and a filled-in example follow)
- Pencils
- Any of the SVPDP textbooks

