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Asian Studies in Speech: Informative Speaking

Level/Class:

This lesson is intended for ninth grade students of mixed abilities in a semester-long speech class that is required of all BGA students. In the past, students were assigned to identify a famous person to research for this speech topic. Far too many students focused on a narrow group of people typically already familiar to the audience. Since the point of this assignment is three-fold: to improve research skills and organization, improve speaking delivery, and to learn about a new topic, I feel it necessary to address the weakness of topics and expand students' knowledge of people beyond the United States.

Objectives:

- Students will use research skills to gather information on a famous Asian.
- Students will discern audience appropriate details about the subject of their speeches.
- Students will organize the information into the outline as given in class.
- Students will practice the speech five times in front of a person to work on diction, emphasis, vocal variety, volume and gestures.

Time:

This lesson will take two 46 minute period for the initial explanation and discussion with some time reserved for research and checking the outline. The students will have two days to research, organize and practice the speeches before the speech due date.

Materials needed:

- Student tablets: all lesson materials are on teacher's Moodle website; research can be conducted on student tablets.
- 4x6 note cards for the final speech outline
- a world map
- list of famous Asians for research

Assessment:

Students will be assessed on their note card outline organization, delivery of their speech, and their awareness of audience in choosing details to include and not include about the topic of their speech.

Procedure:

- A. The teacher should prepare a list of notable Asian people for the students to choose from. This list should be as current as possible as new famous Asians can emerge each year, particularly in the sports and entertainment fields.
- B. The teacher will explain the requirements of the Informative Speech topic and direct the students' attention to the paper or electronic handouts, whatever the case may be.

- C. After the following discussion, the teacher will explain that the topic of the speech is to be on famous Asians, rather than the usual subject of Americans. The teacher will lead a brief discussion on the subject of the importance of Asians to our world economy and global community. Potential questions to ask:
- What country has the largest population in the world today?
 - What issues/current events are related to this particular country?
 - What language is projected to be spoken by the most people in the near future?
 - What Asian country was split into two parts in the '50s, half remaining as an ally to the United States?
 - What is the status of the other half of that formerly unified country as it relates to the United States?
 - What Asian nation has been both a foe and an ally at different points in time in our history?
 - What do we know about the economy of this nation?
 - Brainstorm on everything the class knows about China, Korea, and Japan
 - Why should we know more about these Asian countries?
- D. After the discussion the students will locate the three countries discussed on a world map and make inferences on the importance of the location of each of them.
- E. Students are given class time to conduct research and to ask questions about the organization of the speech.

Famous Japanese, Chinese and Koreans

Japanese:

1. Ichiro Suzuki-baseball player
2. Hideo Nomo-baseball player
3. Sadaharu Oh-baseball player
4. Kosuke Fukudome-baseball player
5. Hidetoshi Nakata-soccer player
6. Watanabe Ken-actor
7. Mifune Toshiro-actor
8. Katsushika Hokusai-artist
9. Hirai Ken-jazz musician
10. Kunihilo Ikuhara-anime
11. Miyazaki Hayao-anime
12. Anno Hideaki-anime
13. Kazuko Tadano
14. Emperor Hirohito

Chinese:

1. Zhao Zhyang-government reformist
2. Deng Xiaoping-government
3. Bruce Lee-martial artist, actor
4. Yo Yo Ma-cellist
5. Yao Ming – basketball

6. Luhsun-writer
7. Sun Tsu-famous general, wrote Art of War
8. Emperor Qin Shi Huang
9. Empress Wu Zetian
10. Aixinjueluo Puyi – The Last Emperor

Korean:

1. Byung-Hyun Kim-baseball player
2. Choo-Shin-Soo-baseball player
3. Yu Kwan-Sun-independence fighter
4. Admiral Yi Sun-Shin-famous admiral
5. Kim Il-Sung-1st supreme leader of North Korea
6. Kim Dae-Jung-1st South Korean President
7. Nam June Paik-avant-garde artist
8. Jang Dong-gun-actor, musician
9. Queen Sondok-ruler of Silla
10. King Sejong-founder of Choson Dynasty

Resources:

http://www.discoverychannel.co.uk/ancient_china/index.shtml

www.espn.com

www.foxsports.com

www.time.com/asia/features/heroes/nakata.html

www.news.bbc.com

<http://www.aasianst.org/EAA/connor.htm>