

9/11 MEMORIAL

UNIT: Memorialization

GRADE LEVEL/S: 9-10

TIME NEEDED: 2 sessions

TEACHER: Brian Marggraf

LESSON TITLE:

“IN MEMORY OF...”

Common Core Standards

W 2 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

W 4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

W 5 Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.

W 7 Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

W 8 Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, assess the credibility and accuracy of each source, and integrate the information while avoiding plagiarism.

SL 4 Present information, findings, and supporting evidence such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

SL 5 Make strategic use of digital media and visual displays of data to express information and enhance understanding of presentations.

Key Questions/ Issues Addressed

- What is a memorial?
- Who/what do we memorialize?
- What are different ways that we memorialize?
- How does the 9/11 Memorial compare to other memorials?

Lesson Goals/ Objectives

- Students will learn how different events and/or people are memorialized.
- Students will write/design a memorial based on a profile of a victim of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Key Terms

9/11 Memorial, Honor, Memorial, Memorial Day, Tribute, Washington Memorial, World War II (WWII) Memorial

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Materials

- Chart paper
- Markers
- Paper
- Pencils/pens
- Internet access
- 9/11 Victim Profiles: See the New York Times series, "Portraits of Grief":
http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/newyorkandregion/series/portraits_of_grief/

Background for lesson
(if necessary)

Events and people are memorialized in different ways, so an in-depth look at other, disparate memorials is worthwhile. Two good examples are the Washington Memorial and the WWII memorial.

Instructional Activity/ Procedures

1. Teacher will lead a classroom discussion about memorials and memorialization: *What do we memorialize? Who do we memorialize? How do we memorialize?* Solicit and record students' answers.
2. Focus the class on the memorialization of 9/11. Show images of the 9/11 Memorial, the Pentagon and Flight 93 Memorials, and Lady Liberty, comparing and contrasting each. *What is similar? What is different? What symbols are used in each? What does the design of each tell us about the attacks themselves?*
3. In small groups, students design a memorial based on a victim profile from 9/11. See the New York Times "Portraits of Grief" for a list of victims. The memorials can take any form – a written remembrance, a three-dimensional memorial, a painting, etc.

Note: In classrooms with sufficient technology, students can render their memorials using available software.
4. Groups will present and explain their memorials to the whole class, describing their process, designs and symbolism.
5. Students will complete a self-assessment about the lesson and the ideas covered.
What memorials best captured the person? Why? What medium did that group use? What symbols resonated with you?

Differentiation: Modeling, visual aids, peer assistance – groups based on mixed levels of ability to support each other, varied product / length, extra time. Potential for higher functioning students to be creative and extend their project. Individualized Rubrics based on student, if needed.

Evidence of Understanding

The memorials and the written self-assessments will highlight students' understanding of the design, function, and uniqueness of memorials.

**Extension
Activities**

- Students create (and explain) a memorial about someone from their life or an historical figure.*
- Students will compare their memorial to those that have been created for the victims of 9/11 (See www.911memorial.org for examples).

***Note:** Some sensitivity might be needed for students with a very recent or significant loss - accommodations may be appropriate, perhaps alternate activity.