Graphic Organizer (Compare & Contrast) Lesson Plan

Subject Area: Social Studies

Date Developed: July 23, 2008

Lesson Topic: Heroes

Grade Range: 3rd & 4th

Objectives:

1. The students will be able to compare and contrast the characteristics of two people using a graphic organizer.

2. The students will work cooperatively and independently to complete graphic organizers.

Standards and Benchmarks:

1. Pathways Theme 1, Target 2 skill:
   - analyzes, compares, and contrasts character traits through notes, charts, diagrams, and written comparisons.

2. NAD Curriculum Guides – Social Studies:
   - Standard 3.5.2 Understand the importance of cooperation and sharing information when working in a group.
   - Standard 3.5.4 & 4.5.6 Work independently and cooperatively to accomplish goals.

Materials Needed:

Copies of comparing and contrasting graphic organizer

Instructional Phases:

Phase 1 Focus

Tell the students that they will be learning how to compare and contrast the character traits of different heroes by using a graphic organizer. An example will be demonstrated on the board, then the students will do another one in groups, and then they will be given one to do independently. Remind the students of the appropriate behavior while the teacher is doing the example and during group work.

The first pair of heroes to be compared and contrasted is Sacajawea and Harriet Tubman. Briefly remind the students of what they learned during the previous lessons on these two people. Have the graphic organizer drawn on the board and pass out copies to the students to fill in (Venn diagram or other graphic organizer for comparing). Write the names of the two heroes being compared. Have the students help you come up with similarities and differences to fill in the
chart. Ask them questions such as: What are some obstacles they each faced? How did they help the people around them? What are some of the most prominent characteristics of each?

Phase 2 Construction

Once the example is complete on the board, pass out another graphic organizer to the students. This time they will be comparing and contrasting “Little Lad” and Abraham Lincoln. Put the students into groups and assign a reporter, leader, recorder, and materials person. Have them work together to fill out the charts. Students in the lower grades may draw pictures.

Phase 3 Analysis of thinking/Assessment

When the groups are finished, the reporters will share with the class the things that their group came up with. The class will discuss them together. Look for opportunities to point out that many different people can be heroes in many different ways. Also, point out that there are things that heroes have in common as well.

At the end of the lesson, another graphic organizer will be passed out to the students. This will be an individual assignment. They will compare and contrast Queen Esther and Abraham Lincoln. The students can work on this assignment during independent work time, at home, or the next day (let them know which one). Tell them to be prepared to share their results with the class.

Evaluation:

The teacher will observe the students’ ability to fill in the graphic organizers with similar and different characteristics of the pairs of people, and to discuss their findings. The teacher will also observe their ability to work together in groups to complete the task. The students’ individual abilities to compare and contrast will be assessed by their completion of the graphic organizers done independently.