The 6 Word Personal Memoir Lesson

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Goal

• Students will be able to tell a (personal) story, through the help of various scaffolds, and add to their creative voice while doing so.
Connecting with Students

• East Boston is and always has been a community of immigrants. A few generations ago most people came from Italy and Ireland. Today, they are coming from El Salvador, Colombia, Brazil, Morocco and Vietnam, amongst other places. As a US II teacher, connecting today’s immigrant experience with that of the late 1800s early 1900s seems like a natural fit.
• Students will have studied the immigration experiences of the Chinese, Italians, Irish and Jews over the course of a few weeks. Materials used include multiple texts from the BPS History curriculum, novels (A City so Grand) and films (The Golden Door, The Gangs of New York,) writing a compare contrast essay, and field trips (see slides) to gain information.
Immigration Mural in East Boston
Follow up task

- Immigration Mural  
  September 7, 2017

- Name one group you saw but already knew about

- Name two groups you saw but didn’t realize they had been a part of East Boston

- What group was in East Boston first?

- Is the group(s) you are a part of on the mural?

- What US President’s name is on the mural?

- What groups have been left out? Why do you think they were left out?

- How many centuries are represented on the mural?

8) What is your biggest take away from the mural?
Trip to the Mayor Walsh’s Office and to the office of New Bostonians
Travel to Ohabei Shalom Cemetery in East Boston
The trouble

- While the study of immigration (or at least moving in some fashion) provides an easy connection with nearly all of my students, many are reluctant to talk and/or write about their personal experiences. There could be legal reasons, traumatic experiences, or personal shyness that prevent students from opening up. The goal is to get students comfortable sharing a story about themselves. To do so, we will use a variation of the 6 word memoir with scaffolds to assist students.

- (For students who are native to the United States, they are asked to research their ancestral history and/or how they ended up living in Boston.)
Day 1 Do Now -15 Min

• Do the words personal memoir mean anything to you? Explain
Memoir - a written factual account of somebody’s life. It comes from France, where it is called ‘memoire’ meaning memory or reminiscence. This literary technique tells a story about a specific part of someone’s life. Sometimes memoirs may be collections of events around a specific theme. Memoirs have a proper narrative shape, focus and subject matter, involving reflection on some particular event or place.
A personal memoir is a story written about you and it is a story written by you. There are literally thousands of true stories that you can write about your life – things that have happened to you (good or bad), dreams you have had, people you have met and become friends with, experiences that have changed you, schools you have gone to, neighborhoods you have lived in... The list of people, events, and things you have experienced can go on and on. For this particular personal narrative, you are going to write about your family’s immigration experience to Boston.
Watch (10 Min)

• Six Word Memoirs: The Video Story
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ZOxhHXZW6o
• Six Word Memoirs by Teens
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ejndNExso9M&t=12s
• Six Word Memoir Film
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nD7Bh63fxUM
Life Graph

- Had caring parents when born
- Had big family
- Last birth was cousin Charity
- Cousin Craig was born
- New buddy pal
- I was an only child
- Cousins were born
- Parents got divorced
- Mom got remarried
- Fractured kneecap
- Got hit by car
- Sliced my foot up 5 times from clamshells
- Ran into a tree
- What a nice day
- Chris

1 year equals 1.5 centimeters
Directions (20 min)

1. Draw a vertical line from top to bottom down the right side of your paper.
2. Draw a horizontal line through the middle of your paper.
3. Number from birth until now along the horizontal line. 0 - 16
4. Number + POSITIVE 1-5 along the top half of the vertical line. Number - NEGATIVE 1-5 along the bottom half of the vertical line.
5. Place 10 major events in your life along the graph. Put a dot when the event happened and rate whether it was good or bad.
6. Label the events.
Free Write (20 min)

1. Circle one event on your map that is most important / meaningful.
2. Share with the person next to you.
3. Write this event at the top of a new page.
4. Free write about it in your binder.
Pick 6 (10 min)

Now, circle the 6 most important words in the paragraph

Rewrite the six words on a clean sheet of paper.

Example:

*Seeking home balance hope turbulent world*
Creating a Google Slide tutorial (15 min)

Tips for creating great google slides

Watch

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_SKtcBy9Bvw

Google Slide Tutorial
Laptop Carts- Create Google slide 6 word memoir

- Students work on individual 6 word memoir slides
Colombia, Friends, Family, Memorable, Plane, Home

By David Catrone
Principles

• Many students do not have the stamina to write

• Students need more regular practice with literacy across contents, especially to increase MCAS scores and stamina

• If students are not able to make some type of personal connection to school work, the chances for success decrease

• Many students are not totally comfortable sharing out personal information about themselves
Practices

• Through scaffolding, a writing stamina can be built

• Collaborating between EBHS’ ELA department and History department to make History more literacy based and MCAS like

• History is more easily interpreted when people can somehow personally connect with the main topic

• By sharing small unobtrusive information about themselves, students will open up
Sources

6 Word memoir Project

http://www.smithmag.net/

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ZOxhHXZW6o

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ejndNExso9M&t=12s

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nD7Bh63fxUM

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_SKtcBy9Bvw