

Lesson Plan 2-A Volunteerism

Lesson Plan 2-A is in preparation for the first videoconference: discussing volunteerism.

Purpose: To get students to reflect on the power of volunteerism and gain some perspective on the immense impact volunteers make on our economy and society. Students will discuss what they contribute to their own school communities.

Teacher's Resources – Teacher Fact Sheet.

<http://www.ysa.org/>

Activities

Read some US Volunteer statistics off of the Teacher Fact Sheet

1. Ask the class to calculate how many hours they volunteered for the school last year. Start by having each student think about how many hours he or she contributed individually to the school. Add up the total number of hours contributed and multiply it by your State's minimum hourly wage (or use \$5.15) to determine the total monetary value that your students' gave to the school community through volunteering. Students can also calculate their individual total by multiplying their total hours by the minimum wage.
2. Have students split up into groups of four. Within each group, students should discuss some volunteer efforts that they have been involved with, if any at all. Make sure students are summarizing their stories on paper.
3. Each group should present their volunteer involvements to the class.
4. Vote on and select the two most exciting projects. These two projects will be presented to the other schools during the beginning of the first video conference.
5. Read off some of the quotes on the teacher fact sheet. Ask students who have already been involved in volunteering to come up with their own quotes that they think will inspire others to volunteer. GNG's moderator, David Macquart will be asking each school for some quotes during the first video conference.

Teacher Fact Sheet Lesson Plan 2 A

Introduction

Volunteer:

Definition: A person who performs or offers to perform a service voluntarily

Did you know...

- In the US, the average person volunteers 50 hours per year
- 22 million adults are involved in formal volunteering each year

Here are a few dismal facts about what adults think of youth:

- Only 37% of American adults believe today's children, once grown, will make the world a better place
- 61% of American adults are convinced that today's youth face a crisis in their values and morals, look at teenagers with misgiving, and view them as undisciplined, disrespectful, and unfriendly
- Only 20% of young people perceive that adults in the community value youth

Here are a few facts about youth, who through volunteering, are making our world a better place:

- Out of 13.3 million youth, 59.3% volunteer an average of 3.5 hours per week, versus 49% of the adult population volunteering an average of 4.2 hours
- 70% of young people ages 15-21 have participated in activities to help strengthen their community at some point in their lives
- Teens say the benefits received from volunteering are: Learning to respect others, learning to be helpful and kind, learning to understand people who are different from them, developing leadership skills, becoming more patient, and better understanding of good citizenship
- Teenagers volunteer 2.4 billion hours annually
- Teenage service is worth \$34.3 billion to the US economy
- 73% of America's 60 million young people believe they can make a

difference in their communities

- Youth who volunteer just one hour a week are 50% less likely to abuse drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, or engage in destructive behavior.
- Youth who volunteer are more likely to do well in school, graduate, vote and be philanthropic
- Major reasons cited by teens for volunteering: Youth feel compassion for people in need; they can do something for a cause in which they believe; they believe that if they help others, others will help them
- Teens rank volunteering, helping the environment and eating healthy as top three activities they consider 'cool'
- One survey found that volunteering was the second greatest sources of individual joy, behind dancing

Six Proven Ways to Increase Teen Volunteering

- Ask them to volunteer
- Encourage youth to get involved in volunteering at an early age
- Encourage children and young adults to participate in community groups, faith-based organizations, student government and school projects
- Encourage a positive self-image so that young people are able to help others and contribute to their communities
- Be a mentor in your community
- Provide young people with opportunities to take courses that include or even require community service

More Facts

- Six out of ten volunteers said volunteering gave them an opportunity to learn new skills
- Half of all volunteers get involved because they are asked to help
- 90% of the population agree with the notion that a society with volunteers shows it is a caring society
- Eight out of ten people feel that volunteers offer something different that

cannot be provided by the state

- 80% of people reject the idea that volunteers are less efficient than paid workers

Sample quotes on Volunteerism

“We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean, but the ocean would be less because of that missing drop.”

~ Mother Teresa

“We can do no great things, only small things with great love.”

~ Mother Teresa

“Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape.”

~ Anonymous

“Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth.”

~ Mohammed Ali

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.”

~ Margaret Mead

The lesson plan 2-A and teacher fact sheet were created by GNG partially using material mainly from the websites below:

<http://www.alpenacc.edu/services/volunteer/quotes.htm> (click here for many more interesting quotes)

<http://www.ysa.org/nysd/statistics.html>

<http://www.learningtogive.org/lessons/unit32/lesson4.html>

<http://www.westminster.ac.uk/page-2228>

<http://www.unv.org/volunteers/voices/index.htm>