



BUILDING A STORY

(30 minutes)

OBJECTIVE

Students work collaboratively to write well-developed stories.

MATERIALS

Lined paper; writing utensils

GET READY

- ✓ Break your class up into groups of three or four.
- ✓ Write these five words on the board:
 - ✓ Election
 - ✓ Vote
 - ✓ President
 - ✓ Campaign
 - ✓ Ballot

INSTRUCTIONS

- ✓ Inform your students that they will be working with their groups to collaboratively write a story.
- ✓ Tell the groups that their stories must be at least two paragraphs long and that all students in each group must take part in creating the story.
- ✓ Encourage your students to listen to and support their fellow group members as they work.
- ✓ Inform each group that they need to make sure that their story has all essential elements:
 - ✓ A setting
 - ✓ Characters
 - ✓ A problem
 - ✓ Events
 - ✓ A resolution

- ✓ Have the groups choose four of the five words on the board to incorporate into their story.
- ✓ Encourage your students to write creatively with strong action words and descriptive language.
- ✓ Give the groups a specified amount of time to work together on their stories.
- ✓ At the conclusion of the activity, have your class come back together and the groups share their stories out loud.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ★ *Was it difficult to work together on this assignment with your classmates? If yes, what made it challenging?*
- ★ *Was it easy to incorporate the words on the board into your story? Why or why not?*
- ★ *Do you think working in groups made your story better than it would have been if you were working alone? If yes, explain why.*
- ★ *What did you learn from this activity?*