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Creative Dramatics

Current Events Activity

Step one: Preplanning selection of topic, etc.

- Activity: “Current Events”
- Theme: Pantomime activity using sight
- Source: Own Creation

Drama/Learning Goals:

- Cooperate with others
- To learn about current events
- To use their imaginations and bodies to act out the events that happened in 2009

Skill Levels:

- Skill 1. Cooperation. Members of the group should be able to work well together.
- Skill 4. Expression as a character (non-verbal). Members of the group should be able to use their bodies to express a character’s thoughts, feelings, and ideas.

Step Two: Presentation of Materials

- **Strategies for introducing the activity and establishing the mood:**

Today we are going to talk about current events. How many of you read the newspaper? Watch the news on TV? Why might we want to read the newspaper or watch the news?

Today we are going to play a game with pantomiming to review some of the events that took place in 2009.

- **Relationship to current unit:** related to social studies unit on past events.
- **Preparation and set-up of materials:** No materials needed. There will need to be a clear area for the students to act out their events.

Step Three: Discussion

- **Instructions for preparation:**

Clear an area to hold activity.

- **Instructions for playing:**
 - Have the students form a circle.

- The instructor will then ask them to think about an event that happened in the past such as 9-11 or the civil war.
- The students will share some ideas of big events that happened in the past.
- Then the instructor will divide the students up into groups. 2 or 3.
- Next, the students will be told to brainstorm together in their groups, the different events that happened in 2009.
- Once the group has thought of several events that have happened in the past year, they will choose one that they will act out and perform for the other groups using only actions, no vocals.
- The instructor will need to make sure that each group has chosen a different event to act out.
- Each group will act out their current event and those who are not part of the group will guess what it is. After guessing what the event is, the class will have a short discussion about it.
- The groups will perform two different current events.
- Once all groups have gone twice, we will form a circle once more.
- Depending on how much time is left for the lesson, the students will come up and draw a card from the instructor and each will act out the given current event while the rest guess.
- Then have them form a circle for the conclusion and discussion of what the activity was about.

- **Casting, volunteers, etc:**

We will just go around the circle, each student participating.

- **Strategies for involvement:**

Encourage and support the students. If they cannot think of an event, or action, I will help them out.

- **Check for understanding and clarity:**

Before beginning, ask the class if they have any questions.

Step Four: Playing the material

- **Instructions:** Remind the class of the directions and give them helpful suggestions to enhance their acting.
- **Side coaching ideas:** Use suggestions and comments to help class guess what it is if they get stuck. Also give suggestions to the actor if it is hard to tell what animal he or she is trying to be.
- **Your Participation:** The instructor needs to be helpful, and provide the students with ideas if they are stuck.

Step Five: Evaluation and reflection

- Questions to generate discussion and reflection:
 - What a harder guessing or acting out?
 - What have you learned by doing this activity?
 - Could you tell what the event was by using your eyes, or did the group end up having to use vocals to help you guess the event?

Step Six: Replaying

- Be ready to respond to requests to react another event!
- **Strategies to encourage replaying:**
 - Try and come up with different events that have not been used yet.

Step Seven: Evaluation and reflection

- Questions to generate discussion and reflection:
 - What events did we act out today?
 - What event will you remember when you are older?
 - Is there an event that we did not talk about that you can think of?
- SEE STEP 5