

Manchester College  
Education Department

**Lesson Plan by:** Jeff Bauman

**Lesson:** Finding Common Ground

**Length:** 15-30 Minutes

**Age or Grade Intended:** Grade 5

**Academic Standard(s):** 5.7.6 Use volume, phrasing, timing, and gestures appropriately to enhance meaning.

**Performance Objectives:** Given a note card, the students will write at least three descriptive qualities about themselves with 100% accuracy. When the teacher reads a note card with the interest of one student, the other students in the class will guess which student that is by raising their hands to speak with 90% accuracy.

**Advanced Preparation by Teacher:** Before this activity, the teacher needs to have an example note card written with examples of descriptive qualities to get the class going. Also, they need to have note cards for each student if they do not already have them.

**Procedure:**

**Introduction/Motivation:** To introduce this lesson, the teacher should tell the students that since this is the first day of school and not everyone knows everyone else that we are going to play a game to get to know each other.

**Step-by-Step Plan:** The lesson should be started by showing the students either on a note card or on the board how you want them to arrange their note card. Also, examples of descriptive qualities should be given to let the students know what you are looking for. Once the expectations have been set, the teacher should pass out the note cards and give the students time to come up with their qualities or interests. The time this takes depends on the class. As students finish, the teacher should pick up the cards and keep them. He/she should then begin reading the qualities that are written on the cards. As the teacher reads them the students should guess which classmate those qualities and interests belong to. The teacher should draw names of students to speak so there is no problem with students shouting out.

**Closure:** After all the cards have been read and guessed the cards should be handed back to the students and can be hung in the classroom. Then the students can use the cards the first few weeks of school in order to try to learn their classmates' names and some of their interests. The teacher can also use these cards for the same reason. If the cards are not to be hung up in the class, the teacher might keep them for future reference in getting to know his/her class.

**Adaptations/Enrichment:** More advanced students in the class will be able to list more interests or characteristics than others. These students should be encouraged to write

more items while other students may need help coming up with three. The teacher should walk through the class to watch for needed help.

**Self Reflection:** This lesson worked very well for the students to learn a little about each other. It helped tremendously that these students were in the fifth grade and knew each other pretty well already. It surprised me that so many students did not guess which classmates card I read though. I like how this lesson worked and I think I will use it again someday.