

Visual and Language Arts

Illustrated Interviews

Description:

Writing lesson that asks students to create interview questions to elicit interesting and revealing biographies of their peers.

Objective:

Students will determine questions to elicit interesting and revealing biographies of their peers. This may serve as a Pre-Reading or Post-Reading activity in which students are reading non-fiction (biographies and autobiographies).

Resources:

Interviews in magazines, on Internet, on tape, Video

Materials:

Paper, pencil

Procedure:

1. Students read or listen to or watch examples of interviews
2. Students discuss which kinds of questions are most interesting
3. In small groups, students create their own list of questions
4. In pairs, students interview students in other groups, using the questions that their group created.
5. Students then share their interview with the person they interviewed.
6. Students illustrate some of their responses, either by bringing in photos from home or by drawing
7. Students share interview with the class in a PPT. or other presentation

Adapted from: Kathy Kaiser. www.haringkids.com/lessons/envs/live/htdocs/lesson15.htm

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Self Portrait

Description:

Students photograph one another and reflect upon what they see externally and internally

Objective:

Student create picture of self with digital camera and write expressively about their self-portrait.

Materials:

Laptops
Digital Camera and wires to transfer pictures

Procedure:

1. Have students look at samples of self-portraits and discuss some of the personality traits they can detect from the paintings and photographs
2. Have students make a list of what they think are their personality traits that they can show in their self-portraits
3. Have students bring in items they might want to wear in their photo, or if they have a camera at home, they can take the picture at home with the items on.
4. Take the portraits
5. Have students write about the photos, explaining how they reveal different aspects of themselves.

Adapted from: Kathy Kaiser. www.haringkids.com/lessons/envs/live/htdocs/lesson16.htm

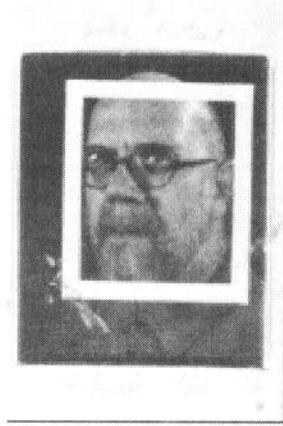
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Resources:

Samples of self-portraits

<http://www.artlex.com/ArtLex/s/self-portrait.html>

Self-portrait - A portrait an artist makes using him or herself as its subject, typically drawn or painted from a reflection in a mirror.



Chuck Close, Self-Portrait, 1997, color instant print (Polaroid) mounted on foam core with tape, ink, felt-tipped pen, graphite and oil paint on board, 36 x 24 inches (91.2 x 61 cm), Museum of Modern Art, NY.



Nan Goldin, Self-Portrait on the train, Germany, 1992



Montien Boonma (Thai, 1953-2000), Self-Portrait: A Man Who Admires Thai Art, 1982, photograph altered with decorative patterns drawn in colored ink. "The results transform his image into a traditional Thai theater mask while also giving it a smirky, challenging version of the welcoming "Siamese smile" of tourist industry cliché," said Holland Carter, New York Times, Feb. 21, 2003.

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Student Autobiography

Description:

Students will consider their own aspirations and strategies necessary to attain their goals

Objective:

Students will hypothesize their own goals and strategies for attaining each goal.

Resources:

Sample of a biography and autobiography

Christina Aguilera Biography

<http://www.biography.com/search/article.do?id=9542394>



Aguilera and music executive Jordan Bratman were married in November 2005 and recently had their first child.

She was born Christina Maria Aguilera on December 18, 1980 in Staten Island, New York. The daughter of a military father and a musician mother, Aguilera appeared on Star Search at age 9 and was a member of the Mickey Mouse Club for two years before recording the hit duet "All I Wanna Do" in Japan with local pop star Keizo Nakanishi.

In 1998, the pop artist began her rapid ascent to stardom when she recorded "Reflection" for the soundtrack of Disney's *Mulan*. Her self-titled debut album followed shortly thereafter, with the single "Genie In A Bottle" becoming the biggest selling U.S. single of the year.

After winning a Grammy in 1999 for Best New Artist, Aguilera topped the charts again in January 2000 with "What A Girl Wants" and "Come On Over Baby (All I Want Is You)". The savvy release of a Spanish collection of hits titled *Mi Reflejo* and a cover version of LaBelle's "Lady Marmalade" for the *Moulin Rouge* soundtrack kept the star in the limelight.

In 2002, Aguilera unveiled a controversial sexually charged image for her second studio album, *Stripped*. The album's first single, "Dirrty," drew similar controversy for its decidedly steamy music video.

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In 2006, Aguilera appeared somewhat more subdued when she released her third studio album *Back to Basics*. She considered it to be a modern spin on the jazz, blues, and soul music from 1920s to the 1940s. Though one track, "Still Dirty," indicates that she's not completely shedding her sexy image.

Simon Cowell

<http://www.biography.com/search/article.do?id=10073482>



Record producer. Born Simon Phillip Cowell on October 7, 1959 in London, England. After dropping out of high school at 16, Cowell got a job at EMI Music Publishing in 1979. It was there that he developed his uncanny sense for what makes a music industry hit. Throughout the 1980s, Cowell developed his own label, Fanfare, and was hired by BMG Records in 1989. He has served as an executive for BMG ever since, in addition to setting up another solo label, S Records. Throughout his career, Cowell has achieved sales of over 25 million albums, over 70 top 30 records and 17 number 1 singles. Pop successes include *Curiosity Killed The Cat*, *Sonia*, *Westlife* and *Robson & Jerome*.

In 2001, Cowell teamed up with Simon Fuller to produce a show in which the public chooses the next big solo star. The show, *Pop Idol*, debuted in the UK and promised a BMG record deal to the winner. With Cowell as a judge notorious for reducing contestants to tears, the show was an instant success, drawing more than 10,000 would-be stars to audition for the show.

The American version, *American Idol*, debuted in 2002, with Cowell once again judging alongside singer Paula Abdul and producer Randy Jackson. The show drew in a record number of viewers for Fox, in addition to producing pop stars Kelly Clarkson (2002), Ruben Studdard (2003) and Clay Aiken (2003).

The Biography Maker

<http://www.bham.wednet.edu/bio/biomaker.htm>

Materials:

Students work in groups of 3 or 4

Writing paper, pencils, laptops

Procedure:

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1. Read biographies and ask questions:
 - a. When did Christina and Simon seem to decide to go into their professions?
 - b. What did they do to achieve their goals?
2. Divide students into the 3-4 person groups to brainstorm
3. Each person in the group should identify one type of work they would like to do when they are out of school.
4. Students then identify the traits in themselves that would make that a good choice for them.
5. Students discuss the steps they need to take to achieve that goal.
6. Each small group presents their results to the class
7. Class submits questions and additional ideas to each person to help them achieve their goal
8. Students write an essay: My Future and How I Will Get There

Extensions:

1. Students can create drawings of who they will be in the future.
2. Display the drawings alongside the writing, or create a class book

Adapted from: Kathy Kaiser. www.haringkids.com/lessons/envs/live/htdocs/lesson14.htm