



Lesson 6

Recording Legacies

Overview

This lesson empowers students to critically analyze the meaning of legacy. Students first reflect on Vel Phillips's life accomplishments and write an obituary to describe her legacy. Then, students will reflect on their hopes for their personal legacy and write their own obituary.

This lesson should be completed after students have viewed the documentary.

Lesson Standards

Wisconsin's Model Academic Standards for Social Studies

Standard C: Political Science and Citizenship

C.12.8 Locate, organize, analyze, and use information from various sources to understand an issue of public concern, take a position, and communicate the position

Standard E: Behavioral Science

E.12.2 Explain how factors such as physical endowment and capabilities, family, gender, ethnicity, religion, socioeconomic status, attitudes, beliefs, work, and motivation contribute to individual identity and development

Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts

WHST.9-10.2.e Establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.

WHST.9-10.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

Lesson Targets

Students will create a list of five adjectives that describe Vel Phillips, as well as identify and write short descriptions about three of her life accomplishments.

Students will define legacy and write an obituary for Vel Phillips to describe her legacy using a graphic organizer as a guide.

Students will reflect on his or her life goals in order to develop a personal legacy. Each individual will then use a graphic organizer to write an obituary that summarizes his or her legacy.

Materials

- *Vel Phillips: Dream Big Dreams* documentary
- *Vel Phillips's Legacy* and *Your Legacy* graphic organizers
- Computers with internet access

Lesson Procedure

This lesson is to be completed after the students have viewed ***Vel Phillips: Dream Big Dreams***.

First, instruct the students to write five adjectives that describe Vel Phillips. Next, tell students to identify and write short descriptions of three of Vel's life accomplishments.

Once complete, have students share their adjectives and descriptions with a partner. The partners should choose three adjectives and two accomplishments to share with another partner pair.

Teaching Guide



Recording Legacies - Lesson 6 cont.

Instruct each group of four students to choose three adjectives and two achievements they feel are most important. Some may find this challenging as students may begin to recognize Vel's actions impact people not only in Milwaukee, but also in the United States.

Have one student from each group share their group's chosen adjectives and accomplishments with the class. While doing so, the student should also share the group's justification for choosing the particular adjective or accomplishment.

Next, discuss the connections and patterns observed between the groups' responses.

Explain to students that the achievements, adjectives, connections, and conclusions they discussed are part of Vel's legacy. As a class, have the students create a definition for *legacy*. A sample definition is: *A legacy is objects or actions for which a person is remembered and is passed from one generation to the next.*

Tell students that an obituary describes a person's legacy. To provide students additional learning support, give the following definitions:

- legacy: something passed from one generation to the next
- obituary: a notice of death that tells about a person's life

Explain to students that they will next create an obituary for Vel and for themselves. Distribute the *Vel Phillips's Legacy* graphic organizer to the class. Students can choose to work independently or with a partner to complete the graphic organizer.

Afterwards, instruct students to independently complete the *Your Legacy* graphic organizer.

Once the graphic organizers are complete, students will independently write two obituaries—one for Vel and one for themselves. Tell students to include a photo with each obituary. Hypothetical death dates should be used. Students can write the obituaries using a word processor on a computer. They can then either print the obituaries or publish them on a blog. WordPress (WordPress.com) is a sample blogging website students can use. If a blog is written, students must provide a link to their blog.

Finally, have students share their personal obituary with their peers.

Extension Activity

Have students write a poetic obituary about themselves. All information from the *Your Legacy* graphic organizer should be included in the poem. Some suggested poetry styles include an epic poem or a name poem. If a name poem is chosen, students should write sort sentences using each letter of his or her name.

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name

Reflect on Vel Phillips's legacy, and complete the graphic organizer. Then write Vel's obituary. Be sure her obituary includes the information below.

Vel Phillips's Legacy

education:
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employment history and positions held:
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organizations and groups:
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family:
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quotes:
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important life events:
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name

Imagine you accomplished everything you dreamed of doing in your life. What is your legacy? Complete the graphic organizer using your past accomplishments and your future goals. Then write your obituary. Be sure your obituary includes the information below.

Your Legacy

education:

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employment history and positions held:

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organizations and groups:

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family:

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quotes:

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