Overview

This lesson is designed to help students develop abilities in writing persuasive text. Students will read biography cards on several famous Kansans. They will select one of those people and write a persuasive nomination for that individual for inclusion in a Hall of Fame. This lesson is designed to take four days to complete, but can be adjusted according to student abilities. Suggestions for extended activities are also included.

Standards

Current standards can be found on kshs.org.

Objectives

Content:
• Students will be able to name two reasons why a Kansan is famous.

Skills:
• Students will practice the skills of writing persuasive text, including content, organization, voice, and word choice.

Essential Questions

• Why do we consider some people famous?
• How do we persuade people to see our point of view?
Activities

This activity uses the following Read Kansas cards:
- William Allen White
- Blackbear Bosin
- Clyde Cessna
- Walter Chrysler
- Charles Curtis
- Amelia Earhart
- Georgia Neese Clark Gray
- Langston Hughes
- Hattie McDaniel
- Gordon Parks
- Susanna Madora Salter
- Laura Ingalls Wilder

Day 1
1. Discuss “famous” and what it means. Explain to students that this lesson will pretend that there is a new “Hall of Fame” opening and nominations are being sought for famous Kansans to be included.
2. Have students read the William Allen White Read Kansas card as a class.
3. Create an overhead from the Nominating Famous Kansans graphic organizer and, as a class, complete it using information from the William Allen White Read Kansas card.
4. Brainstorm with the class what points a person might include when writing a persuasive nomination for William Allen White to the Hall of Fame.

Day 2
1. In some manner appropriate for your classroom, divide the class into eleven groups. Each group will be responsible for one famous Kansan. Have enough copies of the appropriate Read Kansas card so that each student within each group has his or her own card to read.
2. Within the group, have the students read their cards and use the Nominating Famous Kansans graphic organizer to guide their research. If there is time the students may also look for more information on their famous person in the library or on the internet. Have the group fill out one copy of the graphic organizer, but make copies for each student in the group or have students copy the information onto their own graphic organizers.
3. Have each group prepare a brief presentation for the class on its famous Kansan. If there is time, students may use illustrations, artifacts, or costumes to augment their presentations.
Day 3
1. Distribute a copy of the **Notes on Famous Kansans** worksheet to each student.
   (Students will need three copies of this worksheet in order to record notes about each of the 12 famous Kansans.)
2. Have the students present their famous Kansan to the class.
3. Students need to write down two important points about each famous Kansan from each presentation.

Day 4
1. Have each student complete a more formal assessment of the skills they are learning in the form of a written nomination of his or her famous Kansan to a “Hall of Fame.” Students decide whom they want to nominate to a Hall of Fame. They should use their notes to complete the activity. This may be in the form of a letter or an essay, as appropriate for your classroom.
2. Distribute the **Nominating Famous Kansans Rubric** and review it with the students, discussing what makes a good persuasive argument.
3. Consider having the students review their work using the rubric and, if there is time, give students a chance to revise their nominations, if needed. Have each student turn in his/her nomination to you.

**Extended Activities:**
- Create a “Hall of Fame” in the hallway of your school and share the students’ nominations with others.
- Create a timeline showing the birth and death dates of the famous Kansans and their important contributions. Compare these people’s lives to other events taking place at those times.

**Assessment**

1. Evaluate the students’ cooperative work to complete the **Nominating Famous Kansans** graphic organizer within the group.
2. Evaluate the students’ ability to report back to the class about their famous person.
3. Evaluate the students' ability to write effective persuasive nominations.
Timeline information for extended activities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Timeline Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| William Allen White         | 1923-receives the Pulitzer Prize  
                              | 1924-runs for governor  
                              | 1952-William Allen White Children's Book Award is established |
| Blackbear Bosin             | 1940-begins work as an artist in the aircraft industry  
                              | 1955-his painting Prairie Fire is published in National Geographic magazine  
                              | 1974-creates Keeper of the Plains statue |
| Clyde Cessna                | 1924-with Beech and Stearman, forms Travel-Aire Manufacturing Company  
                              | 1927-establishes Cessna Aircraft Company  
                              | 1978-is inducted to the Aviation Hall of Fame |
| Walter Chrysler             | 1907-starts working for the railroad  
                              | 1925-starts Chrysler Corporation  
                              | 1930-designs and builds the Chrysler Building in New York |
| Charles Curtis              | 1885-enters politics  
                              | 1898-the Curtis Act is passed  
                              | 1928-becomes Vice President |
| Amelia Earhart              | 1928-flies as a passenger across the Atlantic Ocean  
                              | 1932-flies alone across the Atlantic Ocean  
                              | 1937-starts her flight around the world, disappears, and is presumed dead |
| Georgia Neese Clark Gray    | 1937-becomes president of her father's bank when he dies  
                              | 1949-is appointed as U.S. Treasurer  
                              | 1953-returns to Kansas to run the family businesses |
| Langston Hughes             | 1921-his work, The Negro Speaks of Rivers, is published in Crisis magazine  
                              | 1930-publishes his novel, Not Without Laughter  
                              | 1940-publishes his autobiography, The Big Sea |
| Hattie McDaniel             | 1939-wins the Academy Award as Best Supporting Actress for her role in Gone With The Wind  
                              | 1947-begins her role as Beulah on the radio show  
                              | 2006-postage stamp is released in her honor |
| Gordon Parks                | 1937-buys his first camera  
                              | 1963-writes and publishes The Learning Tree  
                              | 1989-writes music for and directs the ballet Martin |
| Susanna Madora Salter       | 1882-moves to Argonia  
                              | 1885-joins the Woman's Christian Temperance Movement  
                              | 1887-is elected mayor of Argonia |
| Laura Ingalls Wilder        | 1869-moves with her family to Kansas  
                              | 1911-begins writing a column for a Missouri newspaper  
                              | 1932-begins publishing the Little House book series |
Name: __________________

Notes on Famous Kansans

Kansan’s Name:

1.

2.

Kansan’s Name:

1.

2.

Kansan’s Name:

1.

2.

Kansan’s Name:

1.

2.
## Famous Kansan Nomination Rubric

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Convincing</th>
<th>On the Fence</th>
<th>Not Convinced</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reasons for Nominating</strong></td>
<td>I give 2 reasons that explain my nomination.</td>
<td>I give 1 reason that explains my nomination.</td>
<td>I give no reasons that explain my nomination.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Word Choice</strong></td>
<td>I use powerful words to make my argument.</td>
<td>My word choice works, but sometimes lacks passion.</td>
<td>My words are vague and used incorrectly (e.g., “He was a nice man.” or “She did a lot.”)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Voice</strong></td>
<td>It sounds like I care about my nomination.</td>
<td>My tone is OK, but does not tell much about how I feel.</td>
<td>I don't show that I care about my nomination.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Convention</strong></td>
<td>I use correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation.</td>
<td>I have some errors that distract the reader.</td>
<td>I have numerous errors and my paper is hard to read.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Meets the Deadline</strong></td>
<td>I turned my nomination in on time.</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>My nomination missed the deadline.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Name: __________________________

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