

Subject: English Language Arts
Level: Elementary

CIVIC ACTION ENGLISH LESSON PLAN

This lesson plan offers teachers resource links from the **Library of Congress** and **inquiry-based teaching strategies**, using elementary English content and primary source analysis to engage students in developing the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to engage in positive civic action.

Title: Becoming an Equality Warrior		
ESSENTIAL QUESTION: Does equality matter?		
<p>Lesson Overview: Students will consider whether equality is important to our democracy as they develop an understanding of the literary and historical value of the Gettysburg Address through a close reading of the text.</p>	<p>Lesson Objectives Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze primary sources to spark inquiry into the Battle of Gettysburg and President Abraham Lincoln’s address at the dedication of the Gettysburg Cemetery. Complete a close read of the Gettysburg Address to understand vocabulary, word choices and text references, use of rhetorical devices and text structures, as well as Lincoln’s purpose for the speech and his call to action. Discuss the focus question in light of historical and contemporary contexts. 	
<p>Inquiry Standards <u>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.11-12.3</u> Analyze a complex set of ideas or sequence of events and explain how specific individuals, ideas, or events interact and develop over the course of the text.</p>		
Supporting Question 1 ENGAGING	Supporting Question 2 EVALUATING	Supporting Question 3 TAKING ACTION
Is equality your responsibility?	How can you use your voice for equal rights?	What values, beliefs, and actions can you take to make a difference in equal rights in our country?
PERFORMANCE TASK 1	PERFORMANCE TASK 2	CULMINATING TASK
Give each student a copy of the numbered transcription of Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have students listen to former Librarian of Congress James Billington 	Ask students to take on a role of a character and create a Gettysburg Address using any of the Library of Congress resources. Provide an	Ask students to develop a creative work (painting, poster, diorama, song, poem, print or digital story, etc.) that includes repetition, contrasts, and triads and demonstrates their response

<p>recite the Gettysburg Address and follow along with the text.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● As a class, reflect on the speech. Note student responses in a digital document, on the board, or on chart paper. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Did any words stick out to you? ○ What were you thinking and feeling as you listened to the speech? What part did you find especially interesting or appealing? ○ How do you think this speech might relate to our focus question: In what ways is equality a proposition, or belief, worth fighting for? ○ What questions do you have? 	<p>opportunity for students to act out the address.</p>	<p>to the lesson’s focus question: In what ways is equality a proposition, or belief, worth fighting for? To engage student creativity, guide students to consider Library of Congress materials on the Gettysburg Address.</p>
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS RESOURCES ADDITIONAL RESOURCES		
<p>Former Librarian of Congress James Billington recites the Gettysburg Address: https://blogs.loc.gov/loc/2013/11/recite-the-gettysburg-address/</p> <p>Numbered transcription of Bliss copy of Gettysburg Address</p>	<p>Gettysburg Resources from Library of Congress: https://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/ourdocs/Gettysburg.html</p>	<p>Gettysburg Resources from Library of Congress: https://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/ourdocs/Gettysburg.html</p>
TEACHING STRATEGIES		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Direct instruction ● Primary source analysis ● Jigsaw ● Pair share ● Interview 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Guide students in process of role-play 	<p>Provide exemplar examples</p>

This lesson is part of a larger initiative, Citizen U, which aims to integrate civic learning across the curriculum for students in grades 2-12. For more lessons like it, in Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies, or to learn more about related creative, community, and professional development opportunities, please visit our [Citizen U website](#)...