



Exploring the Writing Process with Primary Source Materials

Lesson Topic: Revision

Lesson Plan Created By:

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Grade Levels:

6th - 8th, High School

Primary Source:

Douglass, Frederick. *Frederick Douglass Papers: Speech, Article, and Book File, -1894; Book File, undated; Drafts of Douglass's autobiography; pp. 619-620. - 1894, 1846.* Manuscript/Mixed Material. <https://www.loc.gov/item/mss1187900659/>.

Compelling Question:

Why is revision important to the writing process?

Supporting Question:

How do writers utilize revision to improve their writing?

Objective:

In this lesson, students will examine a draft from Frederick Douglass to further understand the revision stage of the writing process.

Standards - Common Core

Lesson Standards 6th - 8th

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6-8.5

With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on how well purpose and audience have been addressed.

Lesson Standards 9th - 10th

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.WHST.9-10.5

Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience.

Lesson Standards 11th - 12th

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.WHST.11-12.5

Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience.

Lesson Activity Instructions

Lesson Activity One: Introduction (15 - 20 minutes)

Provide students with access to the source. Ask students to read and analyze the first page of the source.

As a class, have students identify different examples of revision. Examples can include scratched out lines, scribbles, and additional phrases or sentences included with ^ marker.

Next, break the students into smaller groups. Assign a revision example to each group. Have students discuss the following questions:

1. Why do you believe the author revised or changed the draft this way?
1. How did this revision affect the draft? What would the draft be like if the revision was not made?

Lesson Activity Two (15 - 20 minutes):

Have the students read the second page of the source. Ask students to compare the first page to the second.

In their groups, have students discuss the following questions:

1. Does the second version contain the revisions we as a class previously identified? If not, why do you think that is?
2. Along with the revisions to the draft/primary source, what *additional* changes have been made to the draft on page two? Why do you think those changes were made? How do you think these changes affected the new draft?

Closing Discussion (5 - 10 minutes)

As a class, ask the students the following questions:

Thinking back on what we discussed today, why is revision a necessary and helpful part of the writing process? How can you use revision to improve your writing?

Materials: Student handouts, if desired, are provided in the document below.

Credits

The creation of this lesson plan was funded by a grant from the Library of Congress *Teaching with Primary Sources* program.

Name: _____ Date: _____

EXPLORING THE WRITING PROCESS WITH PRIMARY SOURCE MATERIALS



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Part One

Revision Example:

1) Why do you believe the author revised or changed the draft this way?

2) How did this revision affect the draft? What would the draft be like if the revision was not made?

Part Two

After reading the second page of the source, answer the following questions:

1) Does the second version contain the revisions we as a class previously identified? If not, why do you think that is?

2) Along with the revisions to the draft/primary source, what *additional* changes have been made to the version on page two? Why do you think those changes were made? How do you think these changes affected the new draft?

Part Three

1) Thinking back on what we discussed today, why is revision a necessary and helpful part of the writing process? How can you use revision to improve your writing?