

PBS Kids Writers Contest



First Grade Lesson Plan

Voices of The American Revolution: Then and Now

Learning Objectives

Essential Question: "Why is it important to use your voice?"

Students will understand that having a voice means sharing ideas and feelings

Students will practice saying an opinion and writing a topic sentence

Introducing the American Revolution

Your voice isn't just the sound you make when you talk. It's your ideas, feelings, and what you think matters. Long ago, if something felt important, people used letters and speeches to share their ideas.

Visual Aid and Discussion

Show a picture/copy of a handwritten letter or historical document. Ask students:

"What do you notice?"

"Do you think this was typed or written by hand?"

"Why would someone write a letter like this?"

Writers Contest Connection

Kids like you all over our state are writing about things that matter to them. Your voice is powerful!

Activity: Using Your Voice

Model two "I think" and "I feel" statements:
"I think recess should be longer because it helps me feel calm."

"I feel happy when my friends share."

Have students practice with a partner:

"I think ____ because ____"

"I feel ____ when ____"

Optional: Invite 2-3 volunteers to share.

Model two sentence builders on the board:
"I care about my family because they keep me safe."

"I care about my school because it helps me learn."

Break it down visually: "I care about ____ because ____"

Writers Contest Prompt: "Write about something you care about and why it matters."

Sentence builder on the board: "I care about ____ because ____"

