

Date: 2/18/2014

What's on tap for today: A lesson plan about People First Language to promote tolerance/acceptance before the Special Olympics Basketball event at MVHS on February 21, 2014 and National Spread the Word to End the Word Day on March 5, 2014.

Materials Needed:

- Handout- People First Language
- Paper
- You Tube video http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kTGo_dp_S-k (I Am a Person PSA)

Before the Lesson:

- Google "Spread the Word to End the Word" for background if unfamiliar
- Write on the board: "Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me."

Lesson**Lesson:**

Give Information: (2 min.)

SAY: "On February 21st the School-Day Special Olympics will be holding the Basketball event in the Large Gym. Many intensive special day classes will be coming from surrounding areas to participate in exhibition games and skills contests. Less than two weeks later, March 5th, is national 'Spread the Word to End the Word' day."

ASK: "Has anyone heard of it? Raise your hand."

SAY: "On this day people all over the country will take the pledge to eliminate the word 'retard' from their vocabulary."

*Read the phrase on the board "Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me."

ASK: "Raise your hand if you believe that statement to be true. Raise your hand if you think it is false."

Show Video: (3 min.) http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kTGo_dp_S-k (I Am a Person PSA)

Quick-write: (10min)

ASK: "Have you ever been called a name that you didn't appreciate? Or defined by a label and not seen as the person you truly are?"

SAY: "Take out a sheet of paper and respond to these questions- *Have you ever judged somebody based on appearance/interests/ability level? Was it somebody you knew or someone you had never met?*

*Give students a few minutes to write their responses. When they are done ask them to respond to this next prompt:

SAY: "Reflect on the situation. *Did this affect how you perceived that person? Did it prevent you from developing a potential friendship with that person?* Write down your answer."

ASK: "If someone misjudged you based on one of your characteristics/interests how would that make you feel? Write it down."

Share-Out: (3min) Ask students to share their responses.

Give Information: (5 min.)

Say:

-According to The Arc (a national advocacy organization for people with disabilities), "People-First Language emphasizes the person, not the disability. By placing the person first, the disability is no longer the primary, defining characteristic of an individual, but one of several aspects of the whole person."

-People are people first; it is not our characteristics that define us.

-People with disabilities are often misjudged or defined by their disability which can be insensitive and hurtful.

-By labeling people we devalue them as a person, thus changing our attitude toward that person and our perception of them.

-By using "People First Language" we put the person before the disability which can change the way we see them.

Think-Pair-Share: (10 min.)

*Give Handout, go over examples.

SAY: "Fill in the blanks on the hand out." (give 4 minutes)

"Turn to a partner and discuss the words/phrases that you wrote." (give 3 minutes)

"Let's go down the page, raise your hand and share your answers." (give 3 minutes)

*If there is extra time these videos can be shown and discussed:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ONPo6VLFYNc>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/specialolympicshq>

How did it go? What worked and what didn't? In what ways did you revise the lesson that made it work better for you? We appreciate your feedback.