

MARCH MADNESS SYLLABUS CHALLENGE

Bracket Challenge

INTRODUCING THE ROAD TO THE FINAL FOUR

LESSON 1 videos, trivia and discussions about what March Madness is and terms to know during the tournament.

1

ALL ABOUT THE BRACKET

LESSON 2: About the March Madness bracket and inside look at Cinderella Stories and other aspects to the tournament that are beneficial in real life.

2

WINNING AND LOSING LIKE A PRO

LESSON 3: Explore best practices in winning and losing. What does it really mean to be a "good sport" and how it helps in school, life and careers...

3

ABOUT THE BRACKET: WINNING PERCENTAGES

LESSON 4: Learn to apply math skills like probabilities, statistics, and percentages to predict outcomes and strategize your NCAA March Madness bracket selections effectively.

4

CHALLENGE SUBMISSION

Classes will submit their bracket before the first game on Tuesday, March 19, 2024. Sit back and watch how your math skills play out with your bracket.

5

CHALLENGE CELEBRATION

Join the virtual celebration on Monday, April 8, 2024 and find out who the challenge winners are!

Best Bracket Challenge Submission wins a trophy, \$100 Pizza Hut Gift Card and bragging rights!

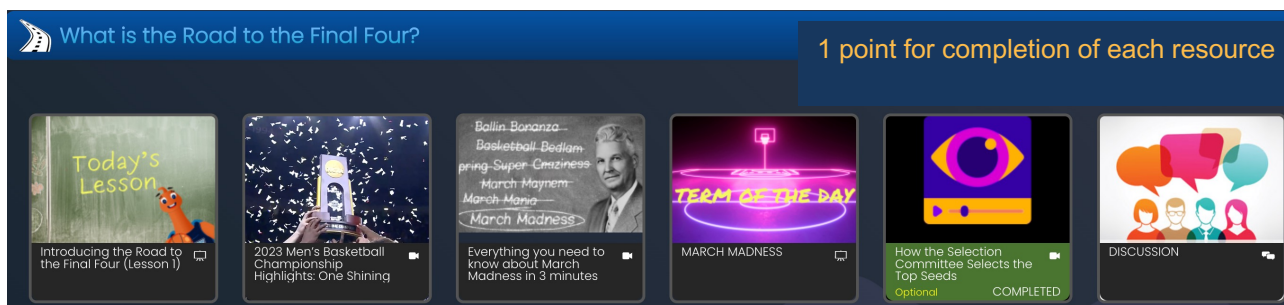
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LESSON 1

Introducing the Road to the Final Four®

Learning Path: ALL

Students will be introduced to the concept of the NCAA March Madness tournament, focusing on the journey teams undertake to reach the Final Four®. Through engaging videos, including highlights from the previous year's championship and an introduction by Mascot Syl, students will gain an understanding of the excitement and competitive spirit of the tournament.



LESSON & VIDEOS (5 minutes each): To be completed on the challenge platform

VIDEO VIEWING:

- Play the "Mascot Syl Outlines Week 1" video to provide an overview of the first week of the March Madness Syllabus Challenge, highlighting key points and what students can expect.
- Follow with the "2023 NCAA Men's Basketball Championship Highlights" video to give students a taste of the intense competition and memorable moments from the previous year's tournament.

DISCUSSION:

- Introduce your class and share what your class is looking most forward to about the March Madness Syllabus Challenge!

OPTIONAL CLASS DISCUSSION:

- Briefly explain the NCAA March Madness tournament, emphasizing its significance in college basketball and its role in American sports culture.
- Mention the excitement surrounding the tournament, from the selection process to the crowning of the national champion.

This lesson is designed to be a concise yet engaging introduction to the NCAA March Madness tournament, leveraging multimedia resources to capture students' interest and stimulate discussion. By the end of the lesson, students should have a foundational understanding of the tournament and be excited to learn more throughout the March Madness Syllabus Challenge.

LESSON 2

All About the Bracket... What is it?

Learning Path: ALL

Students will gain an understanding of the March Madness tournament bracket, explore the concept of Cinderella Stories within the tournament, and engage in a discussion about the power of belief and determination in overcoming odds.

What is the Bracket?

1 point for completion of each resource

LESSON & VIDEOS (5 minutes each): To be completed on the challenge platform.

- Begin the lesson by introducing the March Madness tournament bracket. Explain that it is a single-elimination tournament held each spring in the United States, featuring 68 college basketball teams from the Division I level of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), to determine the national championship.
- Introduce the concept of "Cinderella Stories" in the context of the tournament, explaining how these are underdog teams that go much further in the tournament than expected.

DISCUSSION (5 minutes):

- Discuss students' responses and insights regarding what can be learned from Cinderella Stories, emphasizing the themes of perseverance, teamwork, and the power of belief.
- Conclude the lesson by summarizing the key points discussed. Emphasize the inspirational aspect of Cinderella Stories, not just in sports but in any challenging situation in life.
- Encourage students to think about how the concepts of belief, determination, and overcoming odds can apply to their own lives and goals.

OPTIONAL ASSIGNMENTS (20 minutes):

- 1. Class Discussion on Henry Ford's Quote (5 minutes):** Present the quote by Henry Ford: "Whether you think you can, or you think you can't, you're right." Facilitate a class discussion on how this quote relates to Cinderella Stories in the March Madness tournament. Encourage students to share their thoughts on the importance of belief and determination.
- 2. Review of the 2023 Bracket (10 minutes):**
 1. Display last year's 2023 Bracket on the projector or smartboard.
 2. Highlight several schools that entered the tournament as Cinderella stories. Discuss how, mathematically, these teams should not have advanced but did.
 3. Ask students to consider what factors could have played a role in these teams' consistency and inconsistency with the math. Discuss aspects such as teamwork, determination, strategy, and perhaps even luck.

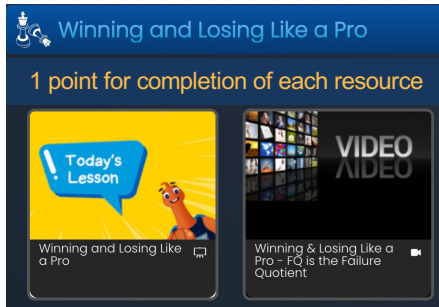
This lesson plan aims to not only educate students about the March Madness tournament bracket and Cinderella Stories but also to inspire them to believe in their own potential to overcome challenges, regardless of the odds.

LESSON 3

Winning & Losing Like a Pro

Learning Path: ALL

In this lesson, students will learn the importance of sportsmanship, understanding both how to win and lose gracefully. They will explore the concept of being a "good sport" and the value of learning from both successes and failures.



LESSON (5 minutes): Begin the lesson by discussing the excitement of the NCAA March Madness tournament, highlighting the highs of winning and the lows of losing that teams experience. Introduce the concept of sportsmanship, asking students what they think it means to be a "good sport." Discuss the importance of respecting opponents, teammates, and officials in both victory and defeat.

DISCUSSION (15 minutes):

- Share a personal story of a time when you lost a game or failed a test. Describe how you felt, what you learned from the experience, and how it helped you grow.
- Prompt students to think of their own examples of winning or losing in sports, games, or academic challenges. Ask them to share how they handled the situation and what they learned from it.
- Discuss why it's important to learn from our failures and how setbacks can lead to greater successes in the future.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: Role-Playing Winning and Losing Scenarios (20 minutes):

- 1. Divide the class into small groups.** Assign each group a scenario that involves either winning or losing a game or competition.
- 2.Role-Play Preparation:** Give the groups time to prepare a short role-play that demonstrates good sportsmanship in their assigned scenario. Encourage them to include examples of positive behavior, such as shaking hands, offering words of encouragement, and reflecting on what can be learned from the experience.
- 3.Group Presentations:** Have each group present their role-play to the class. After each presentation, facilitate a brief discussion on what the group did well and how they exemplified being a "good sport."
- 4. Reflection and Discussion (10 minutes):**
 - After the role-playing activity, lead a class discussion on the importance of sportsmanship in all areas of life, not just sports. Ask students to reflect on how they can apply the principles of good sportsmanship to their daily interactions with peers, family, and in the classroom.
 - Discuss the concept of "failing forward" - learning and growing from our mistakes. Encourage students to think of a recent challenge and how they can use what they learned from it to improve in the future.
 - Summarize the key points of the lesson, emphasizing the value of sportsmanship, the importance of learning from both wins and losses, and the role of setbacks in personal growth.

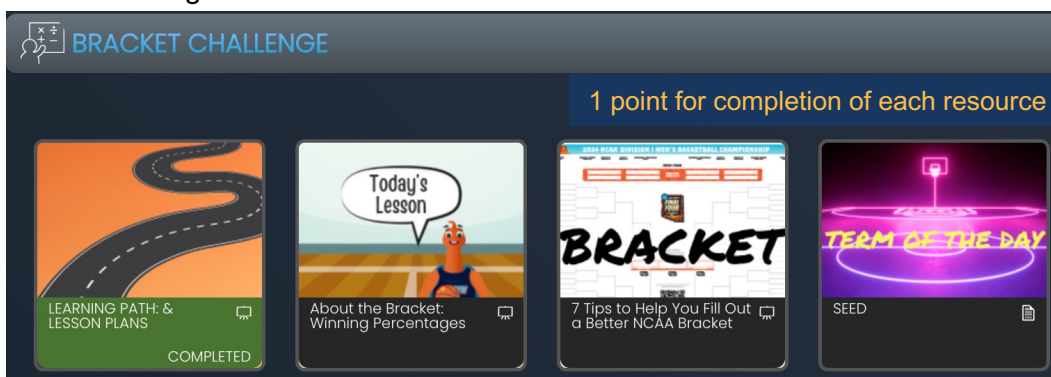
This lesson plan aims to teach students the importance of sportsmanship and the valuable lessons that can be learned from both winning and losing. Through personal reflection, role-playing, and discussion, students will develop a deeper understanding of how to handle victories and setbacks with grace and dignity, preparing them for the challenges and competitions they will face in life.

LESSON 4

About the Bracket: Winning Percentages

Learning Path: BRACKET

Students will learn the application of percentages in sports by calculating the winning percentages of the 2024 NCAA March Madness participating teams. They will then apply this knowledge to collaboratively build a class March Madness Tournament bracket, enhancing their math, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills.



LESSON (15 minutes): To be completed on the challenge platform. Begin this lesson briefly explain the concept of winning percentages and its relevance in sports, particularly in determining team standings and tournament seedings. Formula: $\text{Winning Percentage} = (\text{Number of Wins} / \text{Total Games Played}) \times 100$

CHALLENGE: Complete after Selection Sunday on March 17, 2024, create your bracket. Suggestions below:

1. Group Formation and Task Assignment (2 minutes):

- Divide the class into four groups, each representing one of the NCAA tournament's regions: South, West, East, and Midwest.
- Each group will calculate the winning percentages of the 2024 March Madness participating teams in their assigned region.

2. Research and Calculation (5 minutes):

- Students to access the list of participating teams and their season records.
- Each group calculates the winning percentages for their region's teams, using calculators if necessary.

3. Bracket Building (4 minutes):

- Display the 2024 official blank bracket on the board or a [downloaded version](#).
- Groups discuss and decide on the seeding for their region's teams based on the calculated winning percentages.
- Begin filling out the class's predictions on the official bracket as a collaborative effort.

4. Conclusion and Teacher Discussion (1 minute):

- Highlight the importance of using math in real-life scenarios, such as sports analytics.

DISCUSSION: Submit your class bracket in the teacher discussion. (Engagement = 1 Point).

Note: The official blank bracket will be released on Sunday, March 17th, and will be available for download via the lesson after 6pm EST. Teachers are encouraged to show the bracket on the board or use their downloaded bracket to fill out the class's predictions.

This lesson plan is designed to be a quick yet engaging introduction to the practical application of percentages in sports. By working in groups to calculate winning percentages and build a tournament bracket, students will not only practice their math skills but also develop teamwork and decision-making abilities.