

MARCH MADNESS **SYLLABUS CHALLENGE**

Junior Journalist 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

ART OF COMMUNICATION & BROADCASTING STORYTELLING

LESSONS 6 & 7: Investigate different communication forms, particularly verbal and non-verbal skills, and apply storytelling art in broadcasting to create engaging March Madness segments.

4

CHALLENGE SUBMISSION

Students and classes will submit their top voted "Junior Journalist Report" by Friday, April 5, 2024.
(Submissions can be video, audio or written).

5

CHALLENGE CELEBRATION

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

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

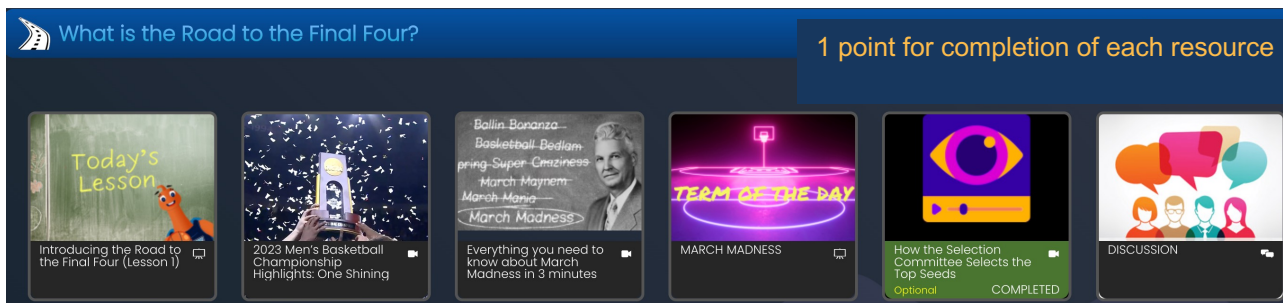
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LESSON 1

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.

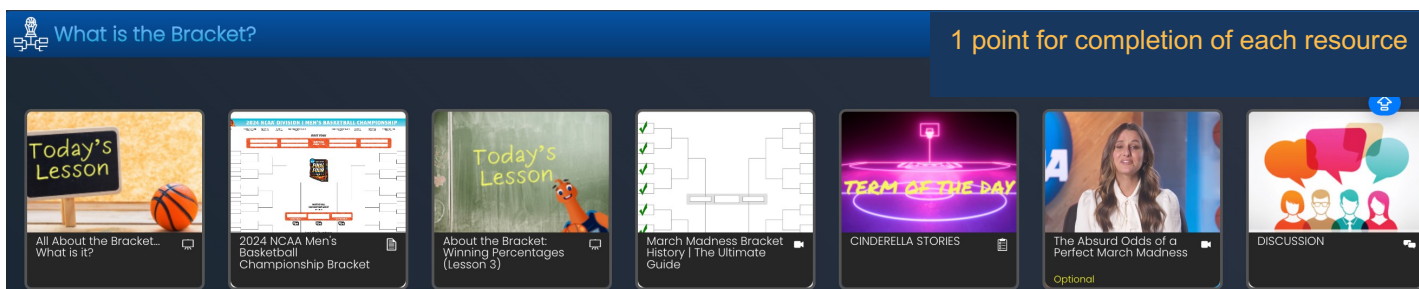
This lesson is designed to be a concise yet engaging introduction to the NCAA March Madness tournament, leveraging multimedia resources to capture students' interest and stimulate discussion. By the end of the lesson, students should have a foundational understanding of the tournament and be excited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



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.

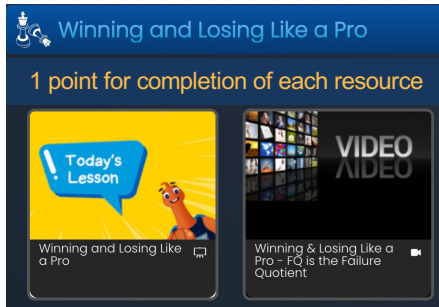
This lesson plan aims to not only educate students about the March Madness tournament bracket and Cinderella Stories but also to inspire them to believe in their own potential to overcome challenges, regardless of the odds.

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.

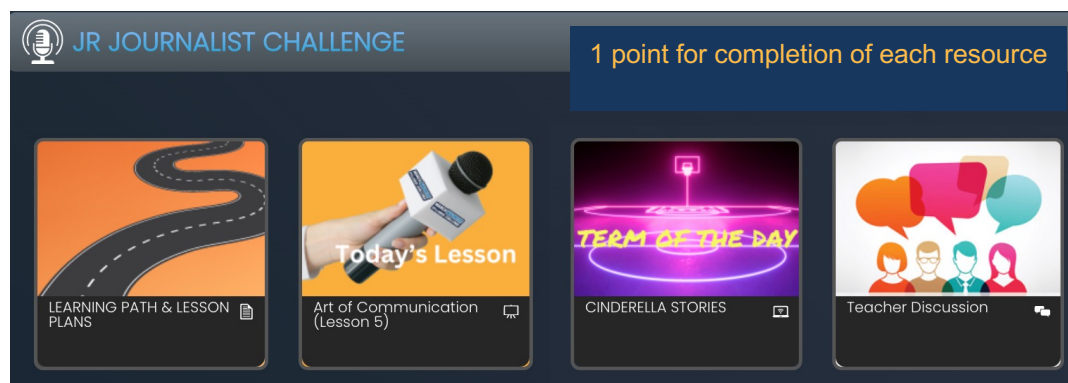
This lesson plan aims to teach students the importance of sportsmanship and the valuable lessons that can be learned from both winning and losing. Through personal reflection, role-playing, and discussion, students will develop a deeper understanding of how to handle victories and setbacks with grace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

LESSON 6

The Art of Communication

Learning Path: Jr. Journalist Challenge

Students will explore various forms of communication, focusing on verbal and non-verbal skills. They will apply these skills in a practical context through a community service project and a challenge that involves creating a short report on basketball.



LESSON (5 minutes): To be completed on the challenge platform. Begin the lesson by discussing the importance of communication in everyday life and its various forms, including verbal, non-verbal, written, and digital. Introduce the concept of effective communication in sports, highlighting the roles of court side reporters, basketball analysts, and sports reporters.

DISCUSSION (5 minutes):

- Share your observations and feedback on any March Madness reports students have watched. Discuss what made those reports effective or memorable.
- Highlight the importance of engaging the audience and conveying information clearly and concisely.
- Summarize the key points covered in the lesson, emphasizing the value of diverse communication skills in both personal and professional contexts.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: (15 minutes): *This activity will help students with their Jr. Journalist submission.*

Students will explore the importance of body language in communication by telling a story that contrasts their verbal expressions with their non-verbal cues. Students will learn how body language can sometimes tell a different story from our words. They will practice this concept by telling a story about something they are excited about, such as the best birthday present, they ever received or a sports game they won. While their words and voice convey excitement and happiness, their body language will express the opposite emotions, such as disappointment or sadness. **Suggested Tips:**

- Practice telling your story out loud, focusing on expressing excitement and happiness through your words and tone of voice.
- While rehearsing your story, practice displaying body language that contrasts with your words. For example, if you're talking about how happy you were to receive a certain gift, you might cross your arms, avoid eye contact, or frown.
- Think about how different body language cues can convey feelings like disappointment, boredom, or sadness.
- In class, each student will take turns telling their story. Pay close attention to both what they say and how they say it, focusing on the contrast between their verbal and non-verbal communication.

This lesson plan is designed to enhance students' communication skills through practical application and creative expression, preparing them for various real-world scenarios where effective communication is key.

LESSON 7

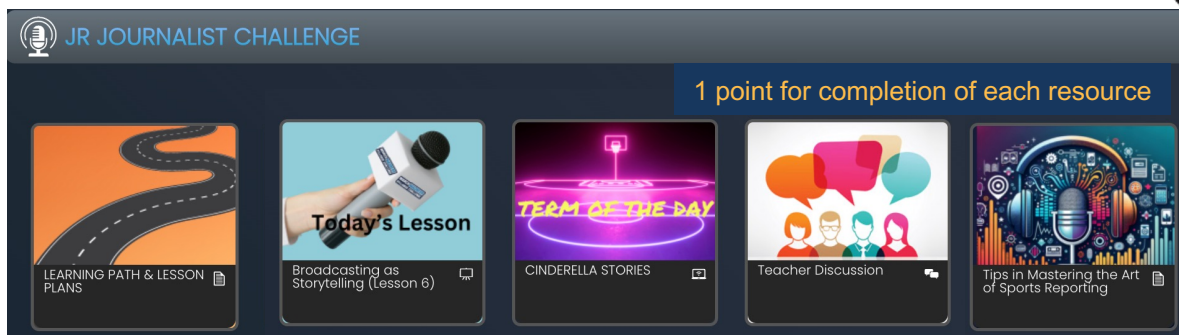
Broadcasting as Storytelling

MARCH MADNESS
SYLLABUS CHALLENGE

Learning Path: Jr. Journalist Challenge

Students will learn the art of storytelling through the lens of sports broadcasting, focusing on how to convey the excitement and drama of the March Madness tournament effectively. They will create their own broadcast segments, practicing their storytelling and communication skills.

BEST
SUBMISSION



LESSON (5 minutes): To be completed on the challenge platform. Begin the lesson by discussing the role of storytelling in broadcasting, especially in sports. Highlight how broadcasters bring games to life, create narratives around players and teams, and engage the audience through their storytelling techniques.

CHALLENGE (15 minutes): Introduce the challenge: Students will become "Jr. broadcasters," creating their own 90-second report on the tournament.

1. Assignment Overview (5 minutes):

- Explain the submission guidelines: Reports should be no more than 90 seconds in length and can be submitted in written, audio, or video format. Emphasize the importance of storytelling in their submissions, encouraging creativity, clarity, and engagement.
- Announce that a winner in each category will be selected based on how effectively they tell a story and engage their audience.

1. Preparation and Practice (10 minutes):

- Provide students with time to brainstorm and outline their reports. Encourage them to think about the narrative they want to create, focusing on the excitement of the tournament, the journey of a specific team or player, or a memorable moment from March Madness.
- Offer tips on storytelling techniques, such as setting the scene, building suspense, and using descriptive language to make the audience feel like they're part of the action.
- Encourage students to think creatively and put their unique spin on their reports, reminding them that storytelling is an art that allows for personal expression.

DISCUSSION (5 minutes):

- Share insights on the impact of storytelling in sports broadcasting. Discuss how effective storytelling can captivate an audience and make the sport more accessible and enjoyable.
- Plan to share a video with the students that your class voted as the best "Jr. broadcaster" submission. This will serve as an example and inspiration for the students as they work on their own reports.

Timing: Total lesson time is approximately 25 minutes.

This lesson plan aims to inspire students to explore the art of storytelling through broadcasting, enhancing their communication skills and encouraging them to think creatively about how they share stories with others.