

MARCH MADNESS **SYLLABUS CHALLENGE**

Mascot 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

CREATIVITY & SELF EXPRESSION & ALL ABOUT MASCOTS

LESSONS 8 & 9: Delve into self-expression and creativity, learning how art evokes emotions and communicates messages, and explore art's role in sports through designing their own team mascot.

4

CHALLENGE SUBMISSION

Classes will submit their top voted "Mascot" by Friday, April 5, 2024.

5

CHALLENGE SUBMISSION & 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!

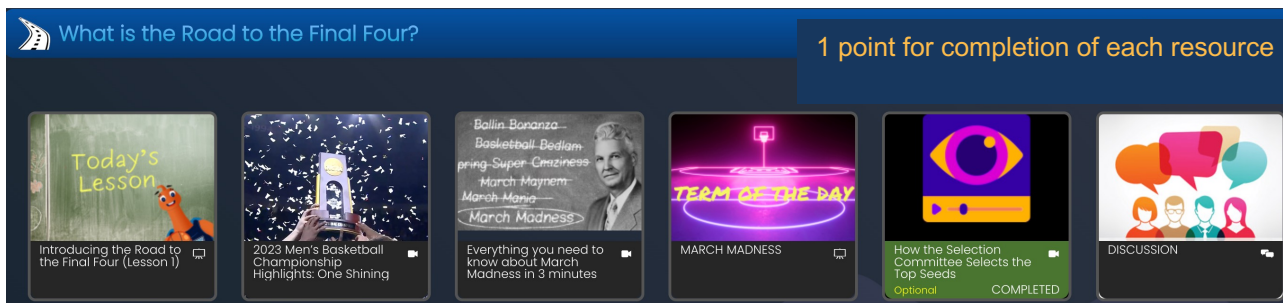
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LESSON 1

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.

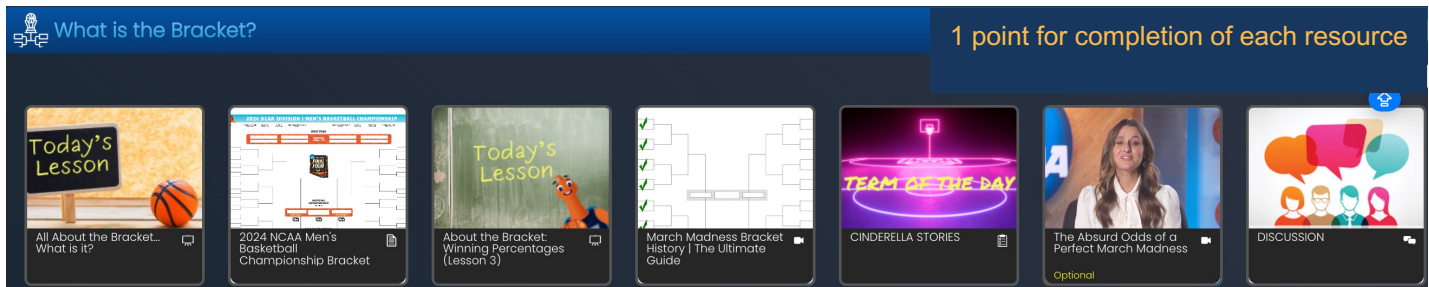
This lesson is designed to be a concise yet engaging introduction to the NCAA March Madness tournament, leveraging multimedia resources to capture students' interest and stimulate discussion. By the end of the lesson, students should have a foundational understanding of the tournament and be excited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

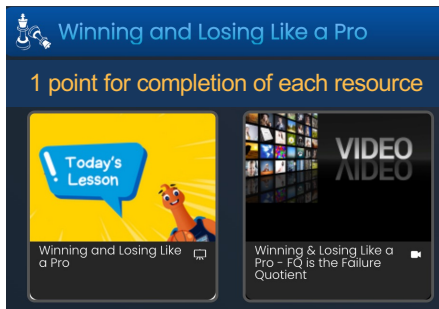
This lesson plan aims to not only educate students about the March Madness tournament bracket and Cinderella Stories but also to inspire them to believe in their own potential to overcome challenges, regardless of the odds.

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.

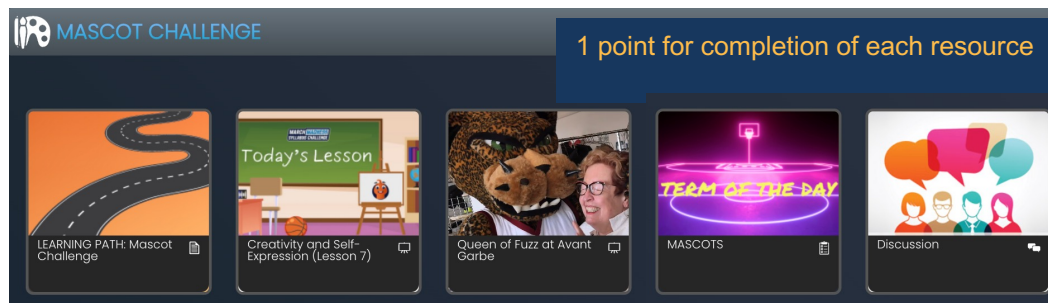
This lesson plan aims to teach students the importance of sportsmanship and the valuable lessons that can be learned from both winning and losing. Through personal reflection, role-playing, and discussion, students will develop a deeper understanding of how to handle victories and setbacks with grace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

LESSON 8

Creativity and Self-Expression

Learning Path: Mascot Challenge

Students will explore the concept of self-expression through creativity, understanding how art can inspire feelings and convey messages. They will learn about different forms of creative expression and reflect on their own unique ways of expressing themselves.



LESSON (5 minutes): To be completed on the challenge platform. Begin the lesson by discussing the importance of creativity and self-expression. Explain how art isn't just about creating something beautiful; it's a way to express our feelings, thoughts, and ideas. Share a personal story about someone who inspires you with their creativity. Discuss how they show their creativity and what you admire about their work. Encourage students to think about how they express themselves and if they're inspired to try new forms of creativity.

ACTIVITY: (15 minutes minimum): Have students think about a person who inspires them with their creativity. It could be an artist, musician, writer, athlete or even someone they know personally.

- Ask them to write a few sentences about why this person inspires them and how they show their creativity.

DISCUSSION:

- Recap the key points of the lesson, emphasizing the importance of creativity and self-expression in our lives. Highlight how art can be a powerful tool for exploring our feelings and sharing our perspectives with the world.
- Encourage students to continue exploring different forms of creativity and to use art as a means of expressing themselves freely and authentically.

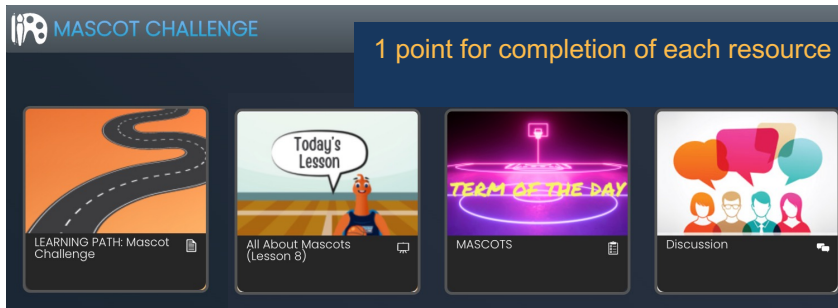
This lesson plan aims to inspire students to embrace their creativity, explore their feelings through art, and appreciate the diverse ways people express themselves. By reflecting on their own creative processes and the inspiration they find in others, students will develop a deeper understanding of the role of creativity in self-expression and personal growth.

LESSON 9

All About Mascots

Learning Path: Mascot Challenge

Students will explore the intersection of art and sports through the concept of mascots. They will create their own team mascot, reflecting on what their creation says about their values, interests, and creativity.



LESSON (5 minutes): To be completed on the challenge platform. Start the lesson by discussing the role of mascots in sports and other team activities. Explain how mascots are a form of art that represents the spirit, values, and identity of a team. Watch the Queen of Fuzz video about Avant Garbe, a mascot making studio to learn the top 4 top mascot qualities, decide how your group would build your mascot.

1. Expression
2. Shoes
3. Eyebrows
4. Attitude

CHALLENGE (minimum 15 minutes):

- Ask students to think about what kind of team they would like to represent (it could be sports, academic, or any group activity they are passionate about).
- Have them brainstorm ideas for a team name and choose colors that they feel best represent their team's spirit and values.
- Provide students with art supplies (paper, markers, colored pencils, etc.) and invite them to design their own team mascot. Encourage them to remember the top 4 tips from the video and think about what qualities they want their mascot to embody and how it can visually represent their team's identity.
- Encourage creativity and originality, reminding students that their mascot should reflect something personal or meaningful about the team they've imagined.
- Organize a "Mascot Gallery" where students' creations are displayed around the classroom or school. This allows the school community to appreciate the diversity of interests and creativity among students.

DISCUSSION (5 minutes): Students to create their own mascot with a team name and colors of their choice and explore what they want to express in their team's mascot. This activity doubles as a self-reflection, what do your students' creations say about them?

Once students have completed their mascots, gather the class for a discussion. Ask volunteers to present their mascot, explaining the team it represents, the chosen colors, and the symbolism behind the design. Lead a discussion on how the process of creating a mascot can be a form of self-reflection. Ask students to share what they learned about themselves through this activity and how their mascot reflects their personal values, interests, or creativity.

This lesson plan builds on the concepts of creativity and self-expression introduced in the previous lesson, providing students with an opportunity to explore how art influences sports culture through the creation of mascots. By designing their own mascots, students engage in a reflective process that encourages them to think about their values, interests, and how they express themselves creatively.