# ARTS IMPACT—ARTS-INFUSED INSTITUTE LESSON PLAN (YR2-AEMDD)

LESSON TITLE: Modify My Action

Theater and Writing Lesson

Artist-Mentor: Dave Quicksall Grade Level: Third Grade

Examples:

Enduring Understandings

Using an adverb as a modifier can make verbs more powerful or change the meaning.

Target: Knows and understands verbs and adverbs.

Criteria: Identifies and verbally explains that verbs are action words and adverbs qualify or

change the meaning of a verb.

Target: Performs the action of a chosen verb.

Criteria: Uses entire body or parts of body in motion to reflect the meaning of the word (verb).

Target: Modifies action by applying an adverb.

Criteria: Changes and sustains the action to reflect the new physical attribute given by the

adverb.

Teaching and Learning Strategies

Introduction to Arts-Infused Concept through Classroom Activity:

Concepts for writing instruction: verbs; adverbs; nouns; adjectives

Concepts in everyday life:

PREPARATION:

• Use list of verbs and adverbs provided with this lesson. Or, make lists of verbs and adverbs, or nouns

and adjectives that might interact in texts or in writing.

1. This is a lesson that is a theater lesson and a writing lesson at the same time. Divides the students

into pairs, in which one student is “A” and the other is “B.” The “A” students receive a VERB list from

the teacher; the “B” students receive an ADVERB list.

2. Explains that all of the “A’s” pick any VERB from the list and act it out. Prompts: How would

you act out “examine?” What does to “leap” look like? Pick a verb from the list and act out its meaning.

Student: The “A” students begin to act in a way that reflects the meaning of the verb they have chosen.

Embedded Assessment: Criteria-based teacher checklist

3. Explains that all of the “B” students tell an ADVERB to the “A” students to modify their

action. Prompts: How can the adverb change the verb? “B” students, tell an adverb to your partner.

How is the action changing?

Student: The “A” students modify their actions to reflect the new attribute given to them by the “B”

student.

Embedded Assessment: Criteria-based teacher checklist

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4. Directs the students to switch roles, after several turns so that everyone gets to work on the

verbs and adverbs. Allows time for pairs to perform for the rest of the class. The class can try and guess

the verbs and adverbs they see the pairs perform.

Student: Switches places and repeats exercise for as many words as time allows.

Embedded Assessment: Criteria-based teacher checklist; peer reflection

Before next THEATER lesson:

1. Use the same teaching strategies with nouns and adjectives.

2. Apply the activity to a text the class is reading. Pairs select characters and scenes in

the text or scenes they infer could happen based on details in the text. Pairs act out

scenes and modify them. The class can guess who they are and what moment they are

depicting. Use verbs and adverbs or nouns and adjectives for this activity.

3. Students generate their own vocabulary for this activity and put those words on a word

wall to reference for writing.

Independent Practice: Say a verb—write a verb! Picture yourself modifying it! Add an

adverb to give more information!

Vocabulary Materials and Community Resource WA Essential Learnings & Frameworks

Arts:

action

physical choice

Arts- Infused:

adverbs

verbs

Performances:

Broadway Center for the Performing Arts, Tacoma, WA:

Mad Science: CSI Investigation, Show Way on Tour, Spirit

Horse, Blues Journey, The Phantom Tollbooth, Red Riding

Hood and Other Stories

Performance Materials:

list of cards of verbs and adverbs

Essential Learnings

AEL 1.1 concepts: action

AEL 1.2 skills and techniques: expressive movement

AEL 3.2 for a purpose: expanded meaning

WEL 3.2.2 Variety of Words: uses language

appropriate for a specific purpose

Writing State Frameworks

Grade 3: selects specific words

Grade 5: uses precise words (e.g. vivid verbs)

Student Verb Lists

Writing

Writing

Writing

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5-1

VERBS LIST “1”

leaping

popping

blinking

pounding

creeping

dancing

spinning

flapping

hopping

VERBS LIST “2”

bubbling

flailing

whisking

flowing

flittering

pouncing

coughing

groaning

jumping

jerking

kicking

laughing

soaring

rattling

winking

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5-1

Student Adverb Lists

ADVERBS LIST “1”

gently

fast

softly

backwards

quietly

slowly

strongly

sneakily

wildly

sharply

smoothly

ADVERB LIST “2”

lightly

intensely

vigorously

eagerly

skillfully

sluggishly

powerfully

timidly

gracefully

dramatically

jerkily

confidently

clumsily

thoughtfully

fluidly

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ASSESSMENT WORKSHEET

Disciplines WRITING THEATER THEATER Total

Points

3

Concept SPECIFIC WRODS: Verbs/Adverbs PHYSICAL

CHOICES:

Action

PHYSICAL CHOICES: Action

Student Identifies and verbally explains that verbs

are action words and adverbs qualify or

change the meaning of a verb

Demonstrates

action of verb

Changes and sustains an action to

reflect new attribute of a verb given by

an adverb

1.

2.

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24.

25.

26.

27.

28.

Total

Percentage

Criteria-based Reflection Questions: (Note examples of student reflections.)

Self-Reflection: How can the adverb change the verb? How is your action changing?

Peer to Peer: How did different classmates modify the same verb/adverb combination

differently?

Thoughts about Learning:

Which prompts best communicated concepts? Which lesson dynamics helped or hindered learning?

Lesson Logistics:

Which classroom management techniques supported learning?

Teacher: Date:

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ARTS IMPACT—ARTS-INFUSED LEARNING FAMILY LETTER

THEATER AND WRITING LESSON – Modify My Action!

Dear Family:

Your child participated in a theater and writing lesson. We studied verbs and adverbs.

• We defined verbs and adverbs.

• We connected an action with a verb.

• We adjusted our actions by modifying our verb to show distinctions when a verb is modified by

an adverb, it can change the meaning. As actors we showed that by changing our physical

choices.

• We participated in a theater exercise with a partner.

At home you could discuss the difference between a verb and a verb that is modified by an adverb.

How would a verb look different than the same verb modified by an adverb?

Enduring Understanding

Using an adverb as a modifier can make verbs more powerful or change the meaning.