

PROJECT-BASED LESSON

SUPPORTING A REVOLUTION

Summary

We all have obstacles to overcome in our lives. The stories in *Girl Rising* are inspirational – these girls represent change. They are the world’s next generation of leaders but, like all of us, they need support and encouragement. Become an agent of change by raising awareness and inspiring your peers to take action for girls everywhere.

Objective

Students will create their own song or poem to educate or encourage others. Students will focus on issues from the *Girl Rising* film chapter(s) that the class watched and discussed, examining how they can be agents of education, support, and change.

Subjects

Language Arts, Reading and Writing

Common Core State Standards

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.5/8.5: With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on how well purpose and audience have been addressed.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.10/8.10: Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.

Time Needed

Three to five class periods; 50 minutes each

Skill Building

- Creating and reading poetry
- Working with a variety of student-generated texts
- Creating an original poem or song

Resources and Materials

- Teacher-selected film chapters from *Girl Rising*
- Teacher Guides for selected chapters, which include a list of Resources, a mini-lesson for introducing the film chapters, and a Film Viewing Guide
- The Library of Congress Poetry 180 project at www.loc.gov/poetry/180
- See Additional Resources Guide for other resources, including relevant videos (found in the Resources section).

Essential Questions

1. How can we support others who are struggling?
2. Where do you find the encouragement to continue when you are in difficult circumstances?
3. How do our lives influence or motivate others?
4. What struggles are universal? What challenges are common to all of us?

Sample Content Questions

1. When you think about poems or songs that you know, what specific words or vocabulary have been used to inspire others?
2. How does one positive event build on another?
3. What inspires you?

Building a Foundation and Making Connections

View the selected film chapters from *Girl Rising* and use the introductory lesson and Film Viewing Guides, relevant Country and Issue Fact Sheets, and Resources to engage students so that they begin to develop an understanding of the numerous issues that influence a girl's ability to access an education.

In small groups, have students create a poster explaining/showing the role that songs and poems play in their culture. Do they inspire? Motivate? Tell stories? Connect to our emotions? Which songs and poems are their favorites? Why? Have groups share their posters with the class.

Creating Original Songs and Poetry

Explain to students that they will be creating an original song or poem. Their creative work should focus around one of the following themes: Inspiration or Awareness. For example, a poem could focus on the negative consequences of having an uneducated mother, or a song could inspire others to continue their fight for education despite living under oppressive social conditions. Students may work in groups or individually. Have the class brainstorm how they will share their work: With their class or as part of a larger awareness project?

The objective of the lesson is not to create a specific type of poetry or song, but to engage in the creative process and gain an understanding of the roles music and poetry play in our lives. The arts are powerful agents of change in the world. Encourage students to use this medium to become advocates for others.

Ideas for Encouraging All Learners

English Language Learners

- Encourage students to create a poem or song in their native language or a culturally traditional format.

Support Services

- Create a poem or song as a group.
- Read a few poems that have a similar rhythm, and encourage students to copy that pattern.

Gifted and Talented Students

- For artistic students, encourage them to produce an informational video to go along with their poem or song.
- Have students perform their work for another class or for the school.