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| Teacher:  | Subject/Grade: Sixth/Seventh Grade (Middle School) |
| Objective/Standard: Introducing Biographies | Materials: Markers, whiteboard/chalkboard, pencil, paper |
| Length of Lesson: One Week | Goal: To introduce the biography genre and encourage students to try creating a biography. |

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| Engage: 1. - Show students pictures/videos of a notable or famous person you admire.  - Explain how you discovered/learnt about this person, go over a couple details about them, and talk about why you admire them. 2. - Could also show students pictures/videos of several notable or famous people.  - Explain who they are and go over a couple details about them. Ask students if they know who this person is. |
| Explore: - Then introduce a question with the entire class: Who is a notable or famous person they admire, and why?  - Have them share, one by one, or have them first share in partners/small groups then together as a class. - Write down their answers on the board or on a big piece of paper.  |
| Explain: - Discuss what a biography is, what its purpose is, and what elements are included in a biography: - Date/Place of Birth - Interesting facts/stories - Family and friend relationships - Key events that have shaped that person's life - Ask students if they know any examples of biographies. - Share examples of biographical works. Explain how they can be in different forms (essays, books, films, musicals,  songs, etc.): - Play a snippet of the song "Chris Farley Song" by Adam Sandler that is about comedian Chris Farley. - Show a clip from the Broadway musical *Hamilton* that was inspired by the book *Alexander Hamilton* by Ron  Chernow. - Present pictures of biopic movies, like *Bohemian Rhapsody* and the side-by-side comparisons of the Live-Aid  performance. - Introduce pictures of biography book covers and snippets. Explain who the people written about are, and share  book recommendations (ex. *Life in Motion: An Unlikely Ballerina* about Misty Copeland). If possible, maybe check  out several biographical books from a library for students to read in free time.  |
| Elaborate: - Have students practice with biographies by interviewing another classmate then writing a paragraph about them.  - Or, have students practice with biographies by writing a paragraph about their own lives. (Technically, this would be an autobiography.) |
| Evaluate: - Final project: Create a biography on a famous or notable person that you would like to know more about. The biography can be in any form--essay, film, song, art, etc.  |

Created by Mina Jang