



HIP HOP HAIKU LESSON PLAN

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GOALS

Thrive Collective provides project-based learning that teaches both art and life skills. To the extent possible, every lesson plan provides three clear goals—artistic learning, project participation and applicable life lesson. For this project, the goals include the following:

1. Artistic learning - This class will teach students how to write a Hip Hop Haiku.
2. Project Participation - By the end of the class, students will accomplish writing an original Hip Hop Haiku.
3. Applicable life lesson - Students will be introduced to how the art skill relates to life outside the classroom because Haiku poetry teaches the economy of words, the art of storytelling, imagination, problem solving, resourcefulness, creativity and communication. Incorporating a Hip Hop narrative builds on the mentioned skills as well as incorporates rhyme, community and cultural awareness.

MATERIALS

Blank paper

Pen

Pencil or digital device such as computer, laptop, phone, tablet etc.

Hip Hop Haiku Graphic Organizer

EXPECTATIONS

Students will learn about the writing style, haiku, while incorporating hip hop themes and then create their own original Hip Hop Haiku. Utilizing the basic foundation of a 5-7-5 format encourages students to choose words and syllables thoughtfully. Students connect subjects related to Hip Hop art and culture with a haiku while exploring creative writing as a means of self expression.

WHAT TO SHOW

A Hip Hop Haiku written by middle schoolers in Queens NYC:



(5) Use **words not weapons**
(7) Shoot for the stars not at them
(5) Give kids gifts not guns

HIP HOP HAIKU

[Video of PS/MS 42 Q Middle School students rapping a Hip Hop Haiku](#)

More examples of Hip Hop Haikus

**HIP-HOP
HAIKU**

(5) Rappers come and go
(7) Tag their name on the world's wall
(5) Too many die young



**(5) Brick wall basketball
(7) Just shoot straight for the milk crate
(5) On the concrete court**

HIP HOP HAIKU



Not every student identifies as an artist or enthusiastically embraces an art project. You should not feel frustrated if students choose not to engage with a particular lesson. Hopefully, in time, you will be able to present less interested students with various opportunities to engage with the process and add value with their creative input. Many students will need a boost in confidence to feel like they have the ability to be creative and successful in conveying their thoughts through art. Showing a masterpiece beyond their skill level can be discouraging and convey the message that this level of finish is to be expected. Using simple drawings and shapes within their skill level to demonstrate work will benefit them more. Similarly, using examples that are



too simple will fail to engage the student and result in losing their interest. Choose age-appropriate examples and demonstrations to use that meet them at their level.

WHAT TO TELL

A haiku is a Japanese poem of seventeen syllables, in three lines of five, seven, five. Traditionally, a haiku uses word images of the natural world such as trees, animals or the sea, for example. Hip Hop originated in the Bronx NYC and includes five elements--emceeing or rapping, djing, breaking or break dancing, graffiti and knowledge. Although it seems unlikely to combine a haiku with Hip Hop culture, blending the two sparks interest in the topics and develops creative thinking. Ways to write a haiku that incorporate hip hop include a rhythm like a rap lyric or write lines that evoke images from Hip Hop culture, community and life.



CLASS OUTLINE (30-50 Minutes)

PROJECT: Hip Hop Haiku

OBJECTIVE

- Introduce Hip Hop Haiku
- Complete the Hip Hop Haiku Graphic Organizer
- Write an original Hip Hop Haiku

STEP 1: INTRODUCTION (5-10 minutes)

DEMO

Share the following Hip Hop Haiku with students and ask them what stands out in each one.

Here's an example of a Hip Hop Haiku on the subject of gun violence:

- (5) Use words not weapons**
- (7) Shoot for the stars not at them**
- (5) Give kids gifts not guns**

Here's an example of a Hip Hop Haiku that does not rhyme but evokes images from the world of Hip Hop:

- (5) Rappers come and go**
- (7) Tag their name on the world's wall**
- (5) Too many die young**

Here's an example of a Hip Hop Haiku that incorporates rhyme:

- (5) Brick wall basketball**
- (7) Just shoot straight for the milk crate**
- (5) On the concrete court**

CLASS WORK

Have students make small groups of three to five students. Each group forms a circle together to audibly create a story, phrase or sentence using only one syllable per student. Give students an example of breaking a word into a single syllable. This will help students get familiar with breaking up words into individual sounds. Each group will assign a note taker to write down the story, phrase or sentence for the group to practice and commit to memory.

GROUP CHECK-IN / PRESENTATIONS

Invite students to present their Syllable Circle Cypher. Engage conversation with the following questions:

- What was challenging about this activity?
- How did the group work together to contribute?
- What topics would be interesting to write on for a Hip Hop Haiku?



Note: The Syllable Circle Cypher connects to community, collaboration and teamwork. Each person contributes a piece of the puzzle, or a part of the solution. Encourage all students to participate.

STEP 2: PROJECT (5-10 minutes)

DEMO

In order to help students develop ideas, give them a copy of the Hip Hop Haiku Graphic organizer below. Students will use this to brainstorm ideas and create a word bank. Explain each question and give examples.

HIP HOP HAIKU GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

<div style="background-color: #000080; color: white; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold;">WHAT?</div> <p style="text-align: center;">What do you want your Haiku to be about?</p>	<div style="background-color: #000080; color: white; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold;">WHERE?</div> <p style="text-align: center;">Where does your Haiku take place?</p>
<div style="background-color: #000080; color: white; padding: 10px; font-weight: bold;">WHAT ARE SOME WORDS THAT YOU CAN INCLUDE IN YOUR HAIKU?</div>	



SYLLABLE BUCKET

WORDS RELATED TO HIP HOP

1 SYLLABLE WORDS

2 SYLLABLE WORDS

3 SYLLABLE WORDS

CLASS WORK

Have students answer the prompts and fill the syllable buckets with words to choose from later when writing the Hip Hop Haiku.

GROUP CHECK-IN / PRESENTATIONS

Choose a few students to present their worksheets. Encourage students to give feedback and ask the following questions:

- What theme or topic are you trying to communicate in the haiku?
- What other words could you use?
- What is the most challenging part of writing this?



STEP 3: PROJECT (15-20 minutes)

DEMO

To help create the flow of a Hip Hop Haiku explain the 5-7-5 syllable template. Give examples of how to break words into syllables on the lines. Remind students that some words will utilize one line while other words will be broken apart to use two or more lines.

CLASS WORK

Create a 5-7-5 syllable line template by drawing lines to represent each syllable. Draw three rows. The first row should show five short horizontal lines representing five syllables. The next (middle) row should show seven short horizontal lines representing seven syllables. The last (3rd) row should show five short horizontal lines representing five syllables. Use the lines as a guide to separate the parts of the words.

Here's an example:



GROUP CHECK-IN / PRESENTATIONS

Choose a few students to share their 5-7-5 syllable line template. Be sure to offer assistance to any students struggling to come up with words. Ask students the following questions:

- What was challenging about the 5-7-5?
- How did you come up with the words?
- Are there any words you wanted to use but couldn't figure out how to use?

STEP 4: CONCLUSION (5-10 minutes)

DEMO

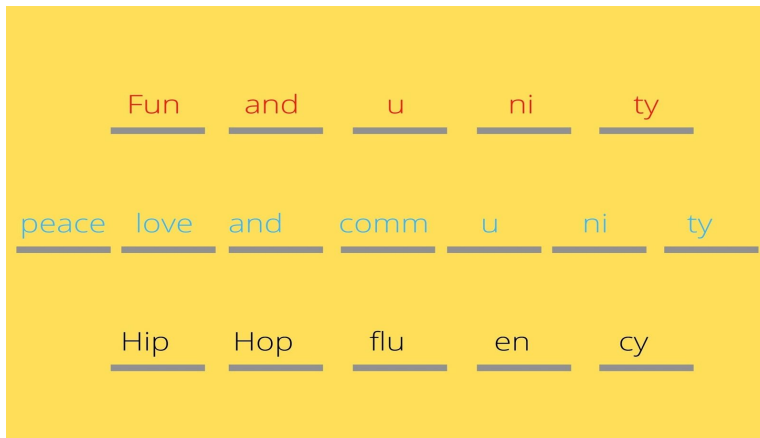
Now that the foundation has been laid, bring it all together to write an original Hip Hop Haiku. Since this is a first attempt, remind students that it does not have to be perfect. The first step involves understanding the style and flow then building in the creativity.

CLASS WORK

Use the line template, the graphic organizer and syllable bucket to write an original Hip Hop Haiku. Fill in the 5-7-5 line template with words and ideas from the graphic organizer and syllable bucket.



For example:



GROUP CHECK-IN / PRESENTATIONS

Hip Hop encompasses remixing what already exists to create something new and fresh. Allow students to share their Hip Hop Haiku and ask the following questions:

- Which Hip Hop Haiku stood out most to you? And why?
- What was your favorite part about writing your own Hip Hop Haiku? What was most challenging?
- What word would you use to describe this experience?

Remind students of the value of appreciating different cultures for their uniqueness while exploring ways to bring them together. This mindset helps develop collaboration and a deep respect for what each culture adds to the community. While combining an ancient Japanese writing style with modern Hip Hop culture may seem difficult at first, each Hip Hop Haiku reflects appreciation for diversity as well as the connection each generation and culture possess for storytelling.