

Progenitor X

Middle School - Zombie Apocalypse Scientific Creative Writing

TERM 2013

LOCATION G+L+S

PROGRAM VideoGames and Learning

Overview of Lesson Creative writing is an effective tool for encouraging the use and strengthening of literacy in any classroom. In this lesson, which coincides with Progenitor-X (a free, computer-based video game from Games+Learning+Society), students will be asked to draft a work of creative writing which depicts both their understanding of the aspects regenerative medicine as well as their ability to create a work of fiction which incorporates many literary elements.

Materials Needed Lined paper or writing journals
Pencils

Content of Lesson Students within your class are likely bombarded with images and ideas regarding the zombie apocalypse. Tap into that home knowledge by encouraging them to write about this familiar topic.

During Writer's Workshop (or whatever similar happenings take place within your classroom), students will be given the following prompt:

"You are a scientist working with the Progenitor-X team who survives the initial wave of infection during the zombie apocalypse. How would you best contribute to the society that's left behind? What role would you play in this new world? Be sure to include some of the scientific content you learned from Progenitor-X within your writing sample."

Optional: Pepper this activity with creative writing (or any writing) skills your class has been working on. For instance, if your class has been incorporating similes and metaphors into their writing, ask students to give three examples of this within their Progenitor-related creative writing.

Follow up: Students are to trade papers for twenty minutes in order to edit the work of another. This editing process is essential before "publication". Afterward, allow students time to illustrate their ideas and present them to the class. These stories and the accompanying artwork can be compiled into a class book, giving students the opportunity to feel pride in their craftsmanship.

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Learning Objectives Students will be able to work independently to produce an appropriate writing sample.

Students will be able to incorporate the required elements into an appropriate writing sample.

Students will be able to work cooperatively during the editing and sharing phases of creative writing.

Students will be able to follow directions and stay on task over extended periods of time.

Educational Standards

(Literacy.WHST.6-8.1) Write arguments focused on discipline-specific content.

(Literacy.RI.6.7) Integrate information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words to develop a coherent understanding of a topic or issue.

(Literacy.RI.9-10.4) Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings

(Literacy.WHST.9-10.5) Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience.