

APOLOGY SONG - HIGH SCHOOL
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Title: The Apology Song
Length of Lesson: two class periods
Grade Level: 9-12th grade
Plans may be modified according to specific grade

The Five Languages of Apology

1. Expressing Regret – *"I apologize"*
2. Accepting Responsibility – *"I was wrong"*
3. Making Restitution – *"What can I do to make it right"*
4. Genuinely Repenting – *"I'll try not to do that again"*
5. Requesting Forgiveness – *"Will you please forgive me"*

"Sorry is a word surprisingly unheard ..."

We can make it happen.. Fill the world with peace and love.. Start a chain reaction.. Beginning with a simple word ..."

Objective:

"Apology" delivers a message of peace. The song is written and performed by Michael Johnathon. The Apology song is a very sincere and direct musical performance that speaks to creating peace in the world and starting a chain reaction through our own individual actions. How may we let peace begin with ourselves? How we may be start in our day to day lives? For students, encourage them to think about how they may begin to spread peace at school and among their friends.

Once students have listened to the song, there will then be a reflection time in which they write down their feelings. The teacher may include some fundamental questions such as, "What does the word peace mean to you?" "What are some ways that you may create and work for peace in your lives, school and community?" "How do you think music brings people together?" There are so many forms of beautiful music around the world. Students are encouraged to appreciate and celebrate diversity not only in musical form, but in our lives and the ways we treat one another and all beings.

Description of Lesson/Activities & Procedures:

Activity 1:

Activity 1 will have students listen to “The Apology” while sitting in a circle. After students listen to the song, they will be able to share what they feel about the song and the message of it. Ask students to express their feelings on what it means to sincerely apologize. How will being able to apologize help increase peace. How will this spread a message of kindness and teach others through their actions of peace. This is an excellent opportunity to discuss the importance of kindness and not bullying others. Also, ask students to explore the idea of how music brings people together. Ask students to think about The Apology song for example. How does this song demonstrate the importance of treating all with kindness. Sharing may be encouraged for a sense of community and collaboration. Students are encouraged to think about social media specifically as well. This will allow the students to think about the message and ways to apply it to their lives and community. In addition, Activity 3 will have students journal write to explore these topics as well.

Activity 2:

Activity 2 in this lesson will have students to explore the idea of how music and art bring people together. Students will research and find one song that demonstrates and relays a message of peace. Students will complete this for both “The Apology” song and another song they find to be particularly meaningful to them. The song will demonstrate a time in which music brought about peace. Students will create an artistic piece to accompany both songs. Students are encouraged to be creative with their artistic design. Students should submit their ideas for initial approval and then design their art. Creativity is strongly encouraged throughout this process. This activity encourages students to think about how they may also create music and/or art to bring about peace. This activity also strongly encourages creativity. For instance, students may decide to do a painting, a drawing, a sculpture, a photography project, or a mosaic. Those are possible examples that may help them as they begin the creative process. In addition, research skills are explored as well as students research songs that deliver a message of peace.

Activity 3: Activity 3 is journal writing. Students are encouraged to think about the real meaning of a sincere apology. Ask students to reflect upon the difference of a sincere apology versus just saying the words, “I am sorry.” Students may also explore free writing around the concept. The second journal entry will have students reflect upon social media and online bullying. This is a very big issue in today’s society. Students may not often be able to recognize what this means or how their own behaviors may be contributing to it.

Connection to Language Arts Standards:

- Identify and compare various styles and functions (recreational, ceremonial, and artistic expression) of music
- Analyze and describe how factors such as time, place, and belief systems are reflected in music
- Analyze and describe music's influence on belief systems, its influence on history, and its ability to shape culture
- Describe and analyze the effects that works in the arts have on groups, individuals and the culture
- Students will understand that collaboration involves sharing new ideas with others. Shared knowledge is a community-building process, and the meaning of research/investigation takes on greater relevance in the context of the learner's society. Comparing notes, discussing conclusions, and sharing experiences are all examples of this process in action
- Students will understand that writing can be used to make meaning of one's own experience, as well as of other information/ideas
- Students will understand that writers need to document sources /give credit for the ideas of others (when

Connection to Arts Standards:

- Visualize and hypothesize to generate plans for ideas and directions for creating art and design that can affect social change
- Choose from a range of materials and methods of traditional and contemporary artistic practices, following or breaking established conventions, to plan making works of art and design based on a theme, idea, or concept.
- Experiment, plan, and make works of art and design that explore personally meaningful theme, idea, or concept.
- Critique, justify, and present choices in the process of analyzing, selecting, curating, and presenting works of art for a specific exhibit or event.
- Curate a collection of objects, artifacts, and artworks to impact the viewer's understanding of social, cultural, and or political experiences.
- Synthesize knowledge of social, cultural, historical, and personal life with art-making approaches to create meaningful works of art or design.

Connection to Arts & Humanities Standards:

- Students make sense of ideas and communicate ideas with music recognize, describe, and compare various musical forms

Vocabulary Within Lesson:

The goal of this entire lesson is for students to HEAR a message of peace and apply to their lives. I don't want to have students focus on particular vocabulary words for this lesson; rather, the message of peace, kindness, including everyone and loving all beings, and also what it means to sincerely apologize when we need to do so. Students are encouraged to think about the meaning of the word compassionate and what it means to live a compassionate life.

Rubric and Guidelines:

The following are guidelines in which you may assess student's understanding and application of SONG:

Demonstrates an understanding of artistic and musical expression as a message of peace, kindness, and inclusion of everyone. There are not further guidelines for this lesson. Peace is the message and creating it by finding ways to do so in our daily lives.