

Video: 8th Grade English Lesson

Lesson description: In this lesson, you will see the teacher clearly establish the objective: identifying and supporting the development of a theme using evidence from multiple mediums. The teacher reviews prior learning, models expectations, and uses academic language to guide students in refining temporary thesis statements and selecting strong evidence. Students engage in peer feedback using targeted questions and success criteria before applying their learning on the exit ticket. By the end of the lesson, most students demonstrate progress toward mastery through their written responses and collected evidence. View the lesson [here](#).

Below are suggested activities and prompts designed to bring video-based learning to life. These activities help deepen reflection, strengthen alignment to instructional standards, and support the transfer of strategies into classroom practice.

For Instructional Leaders:

Use the reflection questions, standards-aligned prompts, and discussion activities to guide deeper thinking, strengthen instructional practice, and facilitate meaningful coaching conversations with your team.

For Teachers:

These activities are intended to help you get more out of the video lesson by focusing on student learning, teacher moves, and how those strategies connect to your own classroom. Use the questions to reflect, make connections, and identify concrete actions to strengthen your instruction.

Related Activities to Use With This Video Lesson

1. Facilitate Individual and Group Reflection

Post this video to your digital learning space or discussion board and ask teachers to reflect using open-ended, evidence-based prompts.

Guiding Questions:

- What did the teacher expect students to know and be able to do by the end of the lesson?
- How did the teacher build student understanding of the lesson's purpose?
- In what ways did the teacher's preparation influence the success of student learning?
- What sub-skills, vocabulary, or prerequisite knowledge did students need to master the objective?
- What questions did the teacher ask? What thinking did those questions require?
- What feedback was provided, and how did it support student progress?

Extension Option: Have teachers identify moments where students needed more support.

Ask:

- *What misconception or gap appeared?*
- *What instructional move helped address it, or what additional move might improve learning?*

2. Connect the Video to Teaching and Learning Standards

Give teachers a copy of the NIET Teaching and Learning Standards Rubric or your district's instructional framework. Ask them to collect *evidence* from the video.

Prompts:

- Where do you see evidence of student thinking, student engagement, student ownership, or misconceptions?
- Choose one rubric indicator and ask teachers to identify which performance descriptors show up in the clip and in what ways.
Example: *Where do you see evidence of proficient questioning practices? Which descriptors support your claim?*

3. Identify Areas of Strength and Growth

After viewing the video, ask teachers to identify:

- One reinforcement (area of strength) with evidence of impact on student learning
- One refinement (targeted growth area) with evidence and a suggested teacher action they might try and why

Use student actions, talk, or products, not teacher preference, to justify selections.

4. Analyze Instructional Impact Using Student Learning Progressions

Ask teachers to create a flow map that shows how student understanding developed across the lesson.

This map may include:

- Entry task or activation of prior knowledge
- Introduction of new learning
- Opportunities for practice or application
- Feedback moments
- Evidence of student skill transfer or mastery

This protocol helps teachers isolate where learning was solid and where scaffolding or adjustments might improve outcomes.

5. Connect to Classroom Practice (Application Task)

Have teachers select one instructional move from the video they want to try in their own classrooms. Ask them to write a brief plan describing:

- What strategy they will use
- When they will implement it
- What success will look like
- What evidence they will collect

Encourage teachers to bring this evidence back to PLC or the next Cluster to support continuous improvement.

To request a copy of the NIET evidence and ratings document for the video: 8th Grade English Lesson, please email info@niet.org. The evidence and ratings document outlines the evidence and the scores the lesson receives on the NIET Teaching and Learning Standards Rubric. NIET's evidence and ratings

come from nationally trained NIET scorers, who review each video, independently score the video, and reconcile scores to ensure accuracy. This process ensures every video and each indicator score is viewed by multiple nationally trained individuals and discussed prior to a final rating assignment.