

Literacy Lesson Plan for COVID-19
GOOGLE CLASSROOM LESSON
May 11-19, 2020

Mrs. Cheryl Singer
Monument Valley High School
Kayenta, Arizona

TOPIC: Graduation Speech

GRADE LEVELS: 9-12

TIME DURATION FOR SUBMISSION: Google Classroom in Google Docs. from May 11-19

AZ. STATE STANDARDS – World and Native Languages:

Presentational Writing (PW): Present information, concepts, and ideas to form, explain, persuade, and narrate on a variety of topics using appropriate media and adapting to various audiences of readers or viewers. The student can . . . (Intermediate/High) Write and share simple paragraphs about events, experiences and academic topics with some control of various time frames.

OBJECTIVES: Students will be able to write a Graduation Speech to their Graduating Class or to the Class of 2020 (that are graduating). They will follow the rubric guidelines and the instructions for writing their speech.

SUMMARY OF TASKS/ACTIONS:

1. Students will read the instructions of the Rubric guidelines and the Final Exam guidelines for submitting a Google Document (Docs.) to the teacher in the Google Classroom that was set up since March due to the pandemic situation.
2. Students will write their speech as if he/she is giving a presentation to an audience of their own peers, guests attending the graduation and special audience members (i.e. parents, grandparents, etc.).
3. Teacher will give a short poetry reading from one of Lucy Tapahonso's poems from the book entitled, *A Radiant Curve (2008)*, on "A Blessing". Where she gives a speech using poetry to the graduating class of ASU students. It's so eloquently worded for graduating students and it has the flavor of Navajo cardinal directions and their Navajo teachings. Appropriate for students to feel that graduation can still feel real to them, even though we have this pandemic that occurred prior to the 2020 Graduation.
4. In Google Classroom, the teacher will read all the submitted writings and to provide a feedback to the students about their submission.

Graduation Speech

First of all my name is [REDACTED], I come from Kayenta but I was raised in Burnt Corn, Arizona. My clans are Red running into water clan, born for Tangled People clan, my maternal grandfather's clan is Bitter water clan, and my paternal grandfather's clan is Black Streaked Wood clan. For my speech I would like to congratulate the class of 2020, you've completed the first part to your new beginning or as they say your new chapter in life. You are now headed to the real world. You are going to learn many lessons along the way. You're going to struggle, but if you can take it, you can make it.

Monument Valley High School is one of the best schools on the Navajo Reservation and it is not because of the location of the school and the view, it is because of the people and the students that are hard working. They work towards their goals, they don't let their failures define who they are but teach and guide them to go beyond the standards. Students at Monument Valley High School work hard, I've seen it. They work hard to be the best runner, athlete, chef, skater, artist, learner, educator, and most of all to be the best they can be as a student. Kayenta has one of the best communities and supporters.

I want to pass on a Navajo teaching that mom keeps telling me. My mother, [REDACTED] is someone I look up to and she's my guidance when I'm struggling. She always tells me to wake up early in the morning and pray to the holy ones. She tells me that if you want to be strong you have to have self discipline. Like waking up early in the morning and forcing yourself to get up, to get ready for the day and to make yourself strong. My mother would be so mad when I sleep past noon, she would say I'm sleeping with the lazy man and that I'm becoming soft. So, having a mindset where everything is up to you and you're the one that determines and defines what

you're going to be as a person is powerful. Having hope is another powerful thing by praying and believing you can do better.

I know already that most of the students of this graduating class of 2020 are the hardest working students and that they have hoped to be bigger and better.

So to conclude my speech I would like to say keep up the good work and don't let your past define your identity. Remember success is not measured by what position you have or if you're the best, it's truly defined as how much you've overcome and that you keep moving forward. I also want to say that wherever you are in life, do not forget your home, your people and most important of all, who you are.

Let's go Mustangs, "Once a Mustang always a Mustang!"

Graduation Speech

Ya'at'eeh, shi ei [REDACTED] yinishye. Bilagaana nishli, Bitahnii bashishchiin, Bilagaana dashishcheii, Tlilizani dashinali. My name is [REDACTED], and I am finishing up my freshman year at Monument Valley High School. Along my journey, I have made so many friends and made many memories that I will cherish forever.

It is the end of the year, and I will have to say farewell to all of my senior friends who are graduating. I will always remember you taking me in as one of your friends, like a brother. I will remember sitting around the lunch table laughing and bonding together. I will remember being on the varsity football team and competing alongside you. I will especially miss the brotherhood that we all shared. One of the lessons that you have taught me is to make everything count. Your senior year taught me that in order to get where I want to be, I have to work hard for it and make my time count because one day, like the seniors, high school will come to an end. Thank you for being such great friends and I wish you all the best in college and wherever life decides to take you. I hope that our paths will bump into each other again in the future.

I would also like to say farewell to Mrs. Singer too. It was unexpected, but at the beginning of second semester, she announced that she is retiring from teaching. I am so lucky that I decided to take Navajo Language classes before she left. She has been such a great teacher. Since I have been in her class, my Navajo vocabulary has quickly expanded. I can pick out words here and there when my relatives speak Navajo. I have cracked some of the code. I know that her leaving is sad for the students, but she has left her mark, her dent in Monument Valley High School. I wish her the best during her retirement and she will continue to do amazing things. Thank you Mrs. Singer.

I would like to say farewell to Monument Valley High School. I am not returning next year to MVHS, but I will always remember the happy times and memories that this school, staff, and students have given and taught me. This place will always have a special place in my heart. My love for this school has grown since I was a little kid, and it is going to be hard saying goodbye. I will miss Kayenta, the small town that I have grown to love for the past 15 years. This is the place that I learned how to work hard; the place that has prepared me for life's challenges. I will also miss my fellow peers as they continue on the path to be successful in the world. I am honored to be their friend. I am honored to be a student of Mrs. Singer. I am also honored to have been a freshman at Monument Valley High School, and a teammate on the varsity football and baseball teams. As I say farewell to MVHS, and Kayenta, I will always remember the Dine teaching to live life Hozho. To live in harmony, walk in beauty, and maintain a balance between the spiritual and physical parts of life. Even though I could be a Panther, a Bulldog, a Wildcat, or even a unicorn, I will always be a Mustang.

FINAL EXAM: Writing
2020 Spring Semester
Monument Valley High School
Mrs. Cheryl Singer, Room 301
nIZHONI mAJOR

Yá'át'ééh Shidine'é. [REDACTED] 'ólta'í nishłí. 'Ádóone'é nishłínígíí 'éí Tó dích'í'í' nishłí. Naalhili 'éí bá shíshchíín. Tábaąhí dóó Naakai dine'é 'éí dashisheii nááná Naalhili 'éí dashinálı. Tó Dinéeshzhee' dęę' naashá. 'Ákót'éego' 'éí 'asdzání nishłí. I'm a senior graduating at seventeen years old. This is a special graduation not only because it's a graduation done in the luxury of one's comforting home, but it's a graduation that is the mile stone for the class of 2020. It's the end of our carefree childhood of trial and error. The start of exploration and adulthood beyond the boundaries of our homes begins when each of our peers, friends, child, or pupil march with pride to claim their diploma. It's a wonderful feeling to have accomplished our high school career, though with the new challenges that have risen.

It wasn't too long ago that the class of 2020 came walking into the halls of Monument Valley High School looking dazed and confused as we were trying to figure out where exactly all our classes were. I especially was perplexed to learn that my classroom would be in another building that I had to take a bus to every day in the evening. Those were the laughable freshman years we should all look back fondly of. Sophomore year was the year we all looked into ourselves with discovery. We joined clubs and played sports to gain the experiences to tell our story beyond academia requirements. Junior year might have been the most stressful. There was more pressure to meet the demand of assignments due to the A.P courses or other challenging classes that we did. However, we still survived because we became Seniors. We adapted to changes and conquered the obstacles in our way with the help from all our mentors, councillors, parents, guardians, friends, and tutors. The Navajo culture teaches us that there will always be monsters in the world that will try to stop us whether they are in a physical form or abstract one. The legendary twin heroes defeated a portion of those monsters, but they knew that there would always be more; therefore, they passed down their wisdom, songs, prayers, and blessing to the future generation. The twins asked our ancestors to contribute what they learn to best prepare the next future. We, the class of 2020, are here because of what our school and community contributed to us with their teachings and encouragement. We thank them, for they are our current heros. Now, it is our turn to contribute to the future with achieving our goals and succeeding in our future careers.

Graduation speech

05-13-2020

Good evening Ladies and Gentleman, dear classmates, dear parents, relatives and friends, dear teachers,

First of all, I would like to congratulate all of us, the students, that we have reached the first small milestone, the High School Diploma, which we can all be proud of.

However, our school time at Monument Valley High school ends today as well. In the past school years, our teachers have tried to teach us as much as possible, even if we didn't understand what we need it for later in life. However, they gave us more than just learning material and facts, they have always been an important companion and contact person not only as a pedagogical specialist. Even as a person, they were always present and always had an open ear for questions, problems and difficulties of all kinds. As we move on to life after high school, we will remember the lessons we learned in and out of class in high school. These lessons help shape who we are as a person. Well we should not only thank our teachers, but also our parents, who made it all possible and who have accompanied us throughout our lives, supported us in good times and bad, and listened to us no matter how annoying we were.

I also want to thank everybody for making this year special for me. I came from a different country but got accepted as if I would be one of you. From day one people started interacting with me and the reservation quickly felt like home. I made a lot of friends and I am sure they will be friends for life. Not only the students made this year special for me, also the teachers and especially the sport made it special. I will never forget the long bus rides to our football matches, or the speeches our coaches gave us during halftime. Even if our coaches were not happy they still managed to motivate us and I never experienced something like that. Even though we couldn't finish the year like we wanted to, because of the Covid-19 virus, this will still be a special year that I will never forget.

With the completion of high school, our time together ends, but school time does not. Each of us will go our own way. Many will go to college, others will start vocational training, and others will go directly to a job. In fact, we have many options and we have to make decisions. Maybe one or the other decision will turn out to be wrong. But that's not bad, as Dietrich Bonhoeffer said "The biggest mistake you can make in life is to always be afraid to make a mistake".

On behalf of all students, I would like to thank the entire teaching staff and everyone who supported us on our way, for this wonderful school time.

