

Unit Plan: Finding Success in School A set of lessons for K-12

Essential Question: What is success in school? Can people in Special Education be successful in school and in life?

Day One.

Introduce concept of learning differences. Discuss nine kinds of smart and have students identify how they are smart and areas of difficulty or breakdowns in learning.

Show Ennis's Gift (http://hellofriend.org/store/gift_bb.html)

Debrief the film. Brainstorm a list of real-life people who have surmounted challenges in learning or life to become successful.

Day Two.

Students search the web or their community for people who struggled in school and choose someone who interests them. They use the Student Assignment to organize the research they collect or their interview data.

<http://www.schwablearning.org/articles.asp?r=258>

<http://www.disabilityhistory.org/people.html>

<http://ericec.org/fact/famous.html>

<http://www.ny.nrcs.usda.gov/about/civil/famousdisability.html>

http://www.allkindsofminds.org/sa/schoolsAttuned_Site_Childrens.aspx

Day Three.

Students share their research in small groups.

Day Four.

Debrief the small group sharing. Reflect on how this research might connect with each student's own experience. Complete the Student Assignment about their own reflections.

Day Five.

Students plan their movie and select their music.
They make a story board.

Days Six Through Eight.

Students do their filming and editing using iMovie.

Day Nine.

Students present their iMovies to the class.

Day Ten.

Students debrief the movie production experience and brainstorm where their movies might be shown.

V. Share student work through a movie showing, a website, or a place of your choice. Invite everyone.