

Empowerment Topic: Performing Arts Careers

Lesson Objective

To help familiarize students with career possibilities in performing arts and to begin to explore the value of such careers.

Preparation

Preview the video (2 minutes 4 seconds) in advance of the lesson.

Warm-up Activity

1. Ask students to tell what they know about the phrase “performing arts.”
2. After explaining what is meant by performing arts (an artistic performance for an audience involving singing, dancing, acting, playing a musical instrument, storytelling, puppetry, etc.), help them understand that a performance is another way that we can communicate our feelings and our stories with each other.
3. Have students name people they know personally or who they have heard of who have careers as performing artists.
4. To acquaint students with the work of performing artists, visit your library to secure some background information about performers who live(d) and work(ed) in your city or town, as well as those who are currently popular with children.
5. While at the library, request recommendations for short biographies or summaries about performing artists aimed at the elementary audience.
6. Have students make a list of the pros and cons of developing a career as a performing artist.

View the Video: *Performing Arts Careers*

1. Tell students they will be watching the video titled, “Performing Arts Careers.” (Tip: You can use steps 2, 3 and 4 to establish a framework for watching the video, or just skip ahead to step 5.)
2. Explain that the video presents role models who work as or with performing artists talking about why students should consider a career in Performing Arts.
3. Tell students that the name of the career each role model represents will appear on the screen as they are speaking.
4. Tell students that, as they view the video, they should listen for reasons the performing artists believe that they should consider Performing Arts as a career.
5. View the video together.
6. View the video again; before this second viewing, invite students to formulate questions or comments about the benefits (good parts) of working as a performing artist as discussed in the video and to be prepared to discuss these after viewing the video.
7. Following the video, have students tell about the types of performing arts careers they think they might enjoy learning more about and why.

Video Follow-Up

1. Ask students to discuss or write about their video-related questions, comments, reactions and responses.
2. Invite students to note specific things they learned about the different Performing Arts careers featured in the video and to reflect upon their observations (e.g., "I liked when the dancer said that performing is magical!")
3. Encourage students to edit any written work so it can be shared with classmates.
4. Use student writings as a springboard to further discussion.

Extension Activities

- Have students research and learn about other types of performing arts careers not included in the video and list some possible benefits of working in each one.
- Invite one or more performing artists to your classroom so they may talk about their careers. Have students prepare questions to pose to your visitors.

Related Questions to Explore

Use the list of questions below to help students learn more about the information presented in the video:

- The first dancer in the video said that performing is a chance to communicate. What do you think she meant by that? What feelings or messages can we communicate through dance?
- The second dancer in the video said that to dance in front of an audience is very rewarding. How can the audience show the dancer they are thankful and appreciative for the performance?
- How is being a musician in a band or an actor in a play like being on a team? What would be the best parts about working with other performing artists this way?
- One of the musicians said that they like to perform because they help the audience feel feelings and emotions that they might not even know they have. What different kinds of emotions do you feel when you listen to different types of music?
- A performance can remind us of who we are and what we might become. What performance has inspired you to want to reach for more in your lifetime?
- Besides exploring the Career Girls website, what are some other ways you can learn more about career possibilities as performing artist?