



INSTITUTE FOR
HUMANE EDUCATION

TEACHING FOR A BETTER WORLD: A SUMMER INSTITUTE FOR TEACHERS Presentation Guidelines

Overview:

During the week of the Summer Institute each participant will create and present a short humane education learning activity or lesson to the group. The number of participants at the Summer Institute determines the length of the presentations, but you can expect to give a presentation about 15 minutes long. This is your opportunity to test your activity or lesson idea, and gain critical feedback from other educators.

Presentation Requirements:

Your presentation needs to pertain to humane education, to utilize one or more of the 4 Elements of Humane Education (see below), and needs to be your own unique work. Otherwise, your only limits are imagination and time.

What Sort of Presentation Should You Do?

Presentations run the gamut from leading indoor or outdoor activities, teaching about global ethical issues, conducting icebreakers, telling evocative stories, and more. Here are a few examples of presentations other participants have done:

- **Human Population** - An experiential activity in which the presenter illustrated growth in human population through sound, dropping BB pellets into a large metal pot in small amounts representing the human population 500 years ago, up to a cacophony of handfuls dropped to represent population at the present time, and followed by activities to address human population challenges.
- **Nature Reverence-Building** - An outdoor reverence-building activity for elementary school students in which participants found things of beauty outdoors that they could hear, touch, see, and smell.
- **Human Rights** - A lesson about human rights taught by reading a story about a political prisoner and analyzing which articles from the 1948 Declaration of Human Rights were violated. Participants then examined Amnesty International case studies and had the opportunity to write letters.
- **Objectifying Animals** - A lesson on the power of words in which participants created a poem as an icebreaker, by adding a single word to a sheet passed around the group. Participants then read sentences that illustrated the ways in which the language of ownership and objectification are embedded in our communication about our relationship with animals. Participants then considered what alternative words could be used.

The 4 Elements of Humane Education:

1. **Providing accurate information** about the issues of our time (so students have the knowledge to face challenges)
2. **Fostering the 3 Cs: curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking** (so students have the tools to meet challenges)
3. **Instilling the 3 Rs: reverence, respect, and responsibility** (so students have the motivation to confront challenges)
4. **Offering positive choices and tools for problem-solving** (so students will be able to solve challenges)

What You Should NOT Do:

Please do not present an activity or lesson that you've previously read about, experienced, or presented yourself. For this presentation, we want you to stretch, explore, and try out something new of your own design. This is a real opportunity for you to use your creativity in a safe environment that allows you to grow and develop your skills.

How It Works:

During the last three mornings of the week, participants will conduct their presentations, having previously signed up for a slot. This is how it works:

1. When it's your turn you'll let us know where and how you want us to be for your presentation (indoors, outdoors, in groups, standing, etc.). The default mode for most presentations is a semi-circle.
2. We'll set a timer for the amount of time determined at the beginning of the Summer Institute.
3. You'll give your presentation.
4. When the timer goes off, if you are still presenting, wrap up quickly – *within a minute*. If you've misjudged time, and you are only part of the way through your presentation, consider this a learning experience. Learning to fit the lesson to the time is a great skill to cultivate. (We recommend that you practice your presentation ahead of time, so that you know how long it will take.)
5. When your presentation is done, you'll receive feedback from 3-7 people who wish to respond. This feedback will not only let you know what was successful, but will also offer ideas for how it could be improved. During the feedback, we ask that you remain silent (unless asked a question) rather than explain or talk back to the person(s) giving feedback. Try to simply listen and take in the wonderful comments and new ideas.

Need Ideas? Need Guidance?

You'll be exposed to new information and activities during the first couple of days of the Summer Institute. These experiences will help you as you consider what to present and how. You are welcome to prepare something ahead of time, but remember to be flexible; you may want to modify it. You may plan for 12 minutes and discover that we have time for all students to present for 20, or vice versa.

During the Summer Institute the faculty is available to advise you. You are welcome to run your ideas by us.