

Food is Community Lesson Plan

Note: Feel free to modify this lesson plan as needed. If your school has a farm to school program, we highly recommend you to use this lesson plan in conjunction with that program.

Potential Uses of This Lesson Plan:

- ELA Curriculum, Science Curriculum, Health and Nutrition Curriculum, Art Curriculum

Title of Lesson: Local Food Stories

Goal(s):

- Students will be able to understand the importance of food within their community.
- Students will be able to recognize community connections through food.
- Students will be able to write and share their own story.
- Students will be able to take or draw a picture of their perspective of the food system and why it is important to them.

Learning Objectives:

Students will:

- Pick a prompt as a class to create their food stories from.
- Draw or take photo(s) which represent their perspective on the food system.
- Explain a story and the importance of it in relation to the prompt created by the class.
- Grow an awareness of community connections through other classmate's stories.

Purpose:

- The purpose of photovoice is to engage students with food in their everyday lives and within their community. Students will be able to showcase their own perceptions of food while practicing expressive and descriptive writing skills.

Prior Teacher Preparation:

- Read the attached [Photovoice Toolkit](#)
 - Helps to get a broader understanding of the concept and how it might be applied to the classroom as a learning tool.

- **Note:** This is a university level research project that is modeled for a large community group of individuals. This lesson is meant to practice similar ideas of food within the community in a classroom setting.
- Suggestion: Make a Photovoice Yourself
 - Discover the methods through practicing taking/drawing a photo and describing the significance of it in the greater food system. This will help to understand what you are asking your students to do.

Materials/Resources:

- Cameras
- Printer
- Paper
- Drawing materials
- How-To Sheets

Procedure:

1. Introduction
 - a. Discuss with student about taking/drawing photos
 - b. What are their first perceptions of the food system around them?
 - c. Introduce the concept of photovoice (photos with stories)
 - d. Talk about the project and what is expected of students
2. Show examples for the students from previous projects
 - a. We have some examples on various levels that can be used to show students.
3. Have students create their own photovoice story
 - a. Have students come up with a prompt as a class to base their pictures and stories on
 - b. Have students take/draw a photo that represents the class prompt
 - c. Have students write a story about their drawing/photo
4. Create a photovoice gallery
 - a. Hang photovoice stories around the room
 - b. Have students walk around the room and look at each other's stories
5. Review stories as a class
 - a. What are some things that students show in their photos?
 - b. Ask students discussion questions.
 - c. What do you **see** happening here?
 - d. How does this relate to **our lives**?
 - e. What **similarities** and **differences** do you notice between you and your classmates' stories?

Local Food Stories: Photovoice Project

Teacher and Class Name _____

Name: _____

Food is Community

Your assignment is to take or draw a picture of something that represents food to you. This photo can be taken anywhere (in your house, outside, at the farmers market, on a walk). The picture must relate to the local food system. Share a short story about what the picture means to you. Think about what you **see** and what is **happening** in the picture. Bring it back to class on _____ so we can look at all of the photos together as a class. **Please no photos of people that can be identified.**

Definition Word Bank

Word	Definition
Photovoice	A process of taking photos and sharing a story about a topic to exchange ideas as a group.
Food System	A web of farmers, growers, markets, consumers, and packagers that work together as a whole to provide food. Ex. Farmers Market, Grocery Store, Farm
Local Food System	A web of local farmers, growers, markets, consumers, and packagers that work together as a whole to provide food to you. Ex. Backyard Garden, Corner Store, Homemade Salsa or Jam
Farmers Market	A place where local farmers sell their vegetables, fruits, beans, nuts, or whatever they have grown directly to the people who will eat it.
Farmer	Someone who grows plants and raises animals for human use.
Grower	A person who grows something in a certain way.
Food Producer	Someone who grows, farms, or creates food such as breads, jams, cheese, etc. for other people to buy.

**Questions to Guide Student's
Stories:**

- Where was this photo taken?

- What is shown in this photo?

- What were you thinking about when you took this photo?

- Why is this important to you?

Insert Photo Here