



Lake Central Education Foundation Round 27

Applications Due Friday, October 16, 2009

Title: Biography Comes to Life

Project Director: Jane Doe

Signature:

School(s): Lake Central Middle School

Grade Level(s): 7

Subject Area(s): Language Arts & Science

Number of Students: 25

Amount Requested: \$312.45

Purpose: Students will explore biography and autobiography relating to famous scientists. Related activities will build comprehension, writing, grammar, and speaking skills. In addition, students will learn a life lesson about setting and attaining personal career goals.

What activities will the students complete?

- **Read** 7-10 biographies from *Great Scientists in Action*; **discuss** with literacy groups.
- **Summarize** scientists' lives by completing a table of characteristics.
- **Analyze** writing styles of several authors of biographical narratives.
- **Compare** and **contrast** the lives of two of the scientists using a Venn diagram.
- **Use** the Internet to **research** an individual who has made a significant contribution to science or technology.
- **Choose** one conflict in the person's life. **Write** a composition in first person (from the scientist's perspective) that includes beginning, conflict, rising action, climax, and resolution using information from your research. **Use** dialogue effectively; include both direct and indirect quotations.
- **Memorize** the composition and **prepare** a costume; **present** autobiographical sketch to science classes.
- **Consider** career paths of famous scientists; **formulate** personal career goals and **establish** steps to reach them.

In a meta-analysis of current research, summarizing and identifying similarities and differences are recognized as two of the most effective teaching strategies with average effect sizes of 1.00 and 1.61 respectively (.80 is considered large). In this project, students summarize various biographies, compare and contrast famous scientists, and find similarities and differences in writing styles. (Marzano, Pickering and Pollock. *Classroom Instruction That Works: Research-Based Strategies for Increasing Student Achievement.*)

Seventh grade language arts and science standards are covered through these activities. Students will read and write biographical narratives, conduct an Internet search, practice public speaking, and learn about men and women who have made contributions to science and technology.

Detailed Budget:

<i>Great Scientists in Action</i>	30 copies x \$9.95	\$298.50
<i>The Student's Guide to Doing Research on the Internet</i>		<u>\$ 14.95</u>
Total		\$312.45

All items will be ordered together with free shipping from Amazon.

When will the project take place? March/April 2010

How long will the project last? 4 weeks

- Week 1 – read biographies; meet in literacy groups
- Week 2 – learn about researching on the Internet; research famous scientists
- Week 3 – write biographical narratives
- Week 4 – make famous scientist presentations; discuss career goals and map out steps to achieve goals

Can you use this project in the future without additional cost? Yes, I will be able to use this project year after year without any additional cost.

Summary (one sentence): Seventh graders will read biographies, research the lives of famous scientists, present the lives of the scientists through first-person narratives, and map their own career goals.