

BLOODY NEWS! On Task Reporting (Grade 8)

Undesirable Behavior Targeted: Students are continuously off task during lectures and seated work. The students are talking, using electronics, doing other classwork, or completing homework instead of assigned task. This interferes with learning because the students are not listening to the material.

Expected Behavior:

- Be On-Task
 - Have only required materials on your desk.
 - Raise hand to ask questions or comment.
 - Complete the assigned task.

Positive Reinforcements

Immediate R+: When a student is seen On-Task, s/he will receive praise and a revolution coin. For every 5 coins earned the class earns enough money for supplies for a soldier, the coins will be taken and a toy soldier given in exchange. At the end of the class the students add their soldiers to the board under the next battle. *Ongoing R+:* During class, the students earn a coin for expected behavior, 5 coins earns 1 toy soldier (which symbolizes 20 troops). 300 troops (15 soldiers) earn a battle for the board. Students will earn 10 battles of the American Revolution. *Overall R+:* BLOODY NEWS! Reporting the Revolution.

Interactive Learning Activity

- ‘BLOODY NEWS! Reporting the Revolution’: the class will be divided into small groups. 32 students in the class, 8 groups of 4 students each will create a podcast similar to a radio show informing about battle highlights of 10 battles of the American Revolution.
 - *10 Battles:* Lexington & Concord, Bunker Hill, Saratoga, Battle of Camden, Siege of Boston, Siege of Ticonderoga, Battle of the Chesapeake, Great Siege of Gibraltar, Battle of Springfield, Yorktown.
 - **§113.20 History, Grade 8 (b) Knowledge & Skills. (4)(C)** explain the battles of Lexington and Concord, Saratoga, and Yorktown.
- Once the students earn all 10 battles, the battles will be drawn out of a hat by each group.
- The small group
 - **§126.16 Technology Applications, Grade 8 (c) Knowledge & Skills (2) Communication & Collaboration. (A)** collaborate and publish with peers using digital tools such as audio/video communication.
 - **§110.24 English Language Arts, Grade 8 (b) Knowledge & Skills (1)(D)** participate in student-led discussions by eliciting and considering suggestions from other group members.

Lesson Overview to Teach Expected Behavior:

The teacher will dedicate 1 day to teaching the desired behavior and plan. She will begin by walking in distracted and ignoring the class. This demonstrates the unwanted behaviors. The teacher asks the students what she did wrong. Then she will demonstrate being on task. Come in, put distractions away, read the board, get materials, sit down at desk. The students will tell the teacher what she should do when she walks into the classroom. Then students will practice by leaving the room and coming back in demonstrating being on task. Once every step is completed, the teacher will give each small group a soldier to start off the unit.

Overview to Explain the Purpose and Power of the Plan:

It is important to remain on task during classes. When there are distractions it reduces the amount of time teachers have available to teach the material required for you to be successful on the STAAR test. If there is a battle on the board that you would like to research, we must work together as a whole class to remain on task and earn that battle.

Options: I can adopt this for any subject. The podcast can be changed to match the subject I am teaching, and the token given as well. The plan can be modified to address different undesirable behaviors.

Materials List:

1000 Fake Gold Coins, 150 Toy Soldiers, Construction Paper, Glue, Pictures from Battles for the Board. 8 Computers with Microphone and Audacity Podcast Software installed on each.