

Practice #7

Memory work, recitations, and/or writing occur daily. These enhance character development and effective communication skills while extending curricula.

Fill your paper with the breathings of your heart. ~William Wordsworth

“Look in the face of the person to whom you are speaking if you wish to know his real sentiments, for he can command his words more easily than his countenance.”

- Lord Chesterfield quotes (British Statesman, Diplomat and Wit, 1694-1773)

“The liberty of speaking and writing guards our other liberties.”

- Thomas Jefferson quotes (American 3rd US President (1801-09).-(1762-1826)



Purpose:

- To help build a sense of competence in students.
- Student recitation of poetry can lend itself to providing training in a number of valuable oral communication skills: poise, posture, eye contact, body language, volume, speed, use of voice inflection, clear articulations and proper pronunciation. National Endowment for the Arts and Poetry Foundation, *Poetry Out Loud*.
- Researchers agree that, like reading, improving students' writing skills improves their capacity to learn. National Institute for Literacy, (2007).

Implementation Considerations:

- 1) What quotes and/or poetry are students memorizing throughout the year?
- 2) Where can quotes and character-building poetry be posted in the classroom for easy reference and use in classroom dialogue?
- 3) What quotes are being modeled daily? If you begin a quote, can the students finish it?
- 4) How much time is included in your plans to discuss and analyze the recitations, quotes, and poetry?
- 5) Have students been taught presentation skills such as to speak with clear articulation, proper tone, expression, and confidence?
- 6) How are students given the opportunity to showcase their achievements?
- 7) What audiences are available outside the classroom for showcasing?
- 8) How are students involved in writing daily? i.e. journal writing in all core content areas the last five minutes of class - “What have I learned today?”