

Lesson Plan

Choosing Quotes

Book: *The Standing Rock Sioux Challenge the Dakota Access Pipeline*

Series: Taking a Stand

Level: Voyager

Objective

To help students analyze how selecting different excerpts from the same primary source can affect shades of meaning.

Supplies

- *The Standing Rock Sioux Challenge the Dakota Access Pipeline* book
- Choosing Quotes Guided Reading Assignment (attached)
- Paper and pencils
- “Police Evict Dakota Pipeline Protesters” article on the NPR website:
<https://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2016/10/27/499614734/police-reportedly-arrest-dakota-pipeline-protesters>
- Full text of Dave Archambault II’s letter to US Attorney General Loretta Lynch:
<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/3189653-Lltr-to-AG-Lynch-Re-Dakota-Access-10-24-16-Pdf-1.html>

Before the Activity

Divide students into groups of three or four. Print a copy of the Choosing Quotes GRA for each group. Have students read *The Standing Rock Sioux Challenge the Dakota Access Pipeline*.

Activity

Have students turn to the “In Their Own Words” feature on pages 34 and 35. This feature focuses on Dave Archambault II, who was chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe during the water protectors’ protests. In this feature, the book’s author (Clara MacCarald) quotes three sections of a letter Archambault wrote to US Attorney General Loretta Lynch.

Reading these quotes allows readers to hear Archambault’s ideas in his own words. But, even when quoted directly, these ideas are shaped by the book’s author. The words an author chooses to quote influence how the readers understand those ideas. For instance, journalist Rebecca Hersher also quotes Archambault’s letter in an article that she wrote for NPR called “Police Evict Dakota Pipeline Protesters.” Hersher chooses slightly different quotes, giving her article a slightly different impact and focus.

To help students explore how an author's selection of quotes affects the readers, give each group a copy of the Choosing Quotes GRA. Students should use the book, the NPR article, and the full text of Archambault's letter to answer each question. After discussing their answers as a group, students should choose one person to write their answers on a separate sheet of paper.

Evaluation

Use the attached answer key to give each group up to 16 points for the GRA.

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational texts, grade 7 (RI 7.6, 7.9).

Choosing Quotes Guided Reading Assignment

1. What three sections of Archambault's letter does MacCarald quote in her book? Write out each quote. (3 points)
2. Why do you think MacCarald chose these sections? Explain how each quote contributes to the feature's goal or affects its readers. (3 points)
3. MacCarald summarizes the part of the letter comparing the water protectors to the civil rights protestors. What two sentences does she use to summarize this idea? Why do you think she makes this choice rather than quoting the letter directly? (2 points)
4. What three paragraphs of Archambault's letter does Hersher quote in her article? Write out each quote. (3 points)
5. Why do you think Hersher chose these paragraphs? Explain how each quote contributes to the article's goal or affects its readers. (3 points)
6. Hersher chooses to directly quote the part of the letter comparing the water protectors to the civil rights protestors. How does this create a different effect than summarizing? (2 points)

Choosing Quotes Guided Reading Assignment **ANSWER KEY**

1. What three sections of Archambault’s letter does MacCarald quote in her book? Write out each quote. (3 points)

- “The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe has a strong interest in protecting our Treaty rights, our sacred sites, and our waters. . . . Thousands of people from around the country, and the world, have come to express their opposition to the pipeline in a peaceful way.”
- “This country has a long and sad history of using military force against indigenous people—including the Sioux Nation.”
- “I hope and pray that you will see the wisdom of acting now in an effort to prevent such a tragedy here.”

2. Why do you think MacCarald chose these sections? Explain how each quote contributes to the feature’s goal or affects its readers. (3 points)

Sample answer: The first quote expresses the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe’s motivation, which is helpful to have in its members’ own words. The second quote concisely expresses one of the letter’s main points. The third quote gives readers a sense of Archambault’s tone and goals in the letter.

3. MacCarald summarizes the part of the letter comparing the water protectors to the civil rights protestors. What two sentences does she use to summarize this idea? Why do you think she makes this choice rather than quoting the letter directly? (2 points)

MacCarald writes, “Archambault compared the police’s tactics with those used during the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s. He wrote that the government often investigates only after something terrible happens.”

Sample reason: The original letter’s explanation is three paragraphs long, and it uses fairly long phrases and complicated words. By paraphrasing, MacCarald can condense this information so it fits the space and reading level that will best help readers understand it.

4. What three paragraphs of Archambault’s letter does Hersher quote in her article? Write out each quote. (3 points)

- “Peaceful protests are being met with military vehicles and heavily armed law enforcement personnel in riot gear. Rather than seeking to keep the peace, law enforcement personnel are clearly working in tandem with private security of Dakota Access.”
- “To many people, the military tactics being used in North Dakota are reminiscent of the tactics used against protesters during the civil rights movement some 50 years ago. And I believe that there are similarities there.”
- “But to us, there is an additional collective memory that comes to mind. This country has a long and sad history of using military force against indigenous people—including the Sioux Nation. I would like to think that those days are past—and that today Tribal rights cannot be ignored and military force cannot be used to suppress Indian people. But when

I see the militarization taking place in North Dakota against Indian people, I am genuinely concerned.”

5. Why do you think Hersher chose these paragraphs? Explain how each quote contributes to the article’s goal or affects its readers. (3 points)

Sample answer: The first paragraph uses specific details to concisely express one of the letter’s main points: the violence against the protesters. The second paragraph highlights one of the letter’s most impactful statements. The third paragraph provides additional details and perspective about this statement while also revealing some of Archambault’s feelings and the firm-but-polite tone of his letter.

6. Hersher chooses to directly quote the part of the letter comparing the water protectors to the civil rights protestors. How does this create a different effect than summarizing? (2 points)

Sample answer: By quoting Archambault directly, Hersher is able to include both the comparison to the civil rights movement and Archambault’s perspective on this comparison. Readers learn that although the first comparison is accurate, many American Indians sense another stronger connection: that of violence against indigenous people.