Lesson Plan

Independence Ideas

Book: *Exploring Independence Hall*
Series: Travel America's Landmarks
Level: Beacon

Objective
To help students practice identifying the reasons supporting a particular point in a text and creating a thesis statement.

Supplies
- Several copies of the *Exploring Independence Hall* book
- Pencils and paper
- Whiteboard

Before the Activity
Read *Exploring Independence Hall* out loud, or assign it to students to read on their own. Divide the class into groups of three and give each group a copy of the book, a pencil, and paper. Write the following statement on the whiteboard: Independence Hall is universally important because _____.

Activity
Independence Hall is considered an important site not only in the United States, but also in the world. On page 6, the fun fact says, "The hall became a World Heritage Site in 1979. These sites are recognized for their universal importance." The word *universal* means "related to the world as a whole." Students will identify what key details support this idea of the hall's universal importance.

In groups of three, students should discuss why Independence Hall is considered important. Students can refer to the text to find supporting details. They can write their ideas on the paper. After several minutes, ask each group to write a thesis statement. A thesis statement is a single sentence that summarizes their ideas. Each group's thesis statement should follow the format of the sentence on the board. Give groups several minutes to combine their ideas into a single thesis statement. Then come back together as a class. Invite each group to share its thesis statement. Write students' answers on the board.

Evaluation

Could students identify the key points supporting the idea of Independence Hall's universal importance? Could students combine those details into a clear thesis statement?

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational texts, grade 4 (RI 4.1, 4.2, 4.8).