

VETERANS DAY LESSON PLAN

9TH AND 10TH GRADES

Veterans Day

Honoring All Who Served



Wreaths Across America

Lesson Plan

Teacher:	Date:
Grade: 9 th and 10 th	Lesson: Veterans Day

<p>OBJECTIVES: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.4 Present information, findings, and supporting evidence clearly, concisely, and logically such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, substance, and style are appropriate to purpose, audience, and task.</p>	<p>STRATEGIES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Writing <input type="checkbox"/> K-W-L Worksheet <input type="checkbox"/> Collaboration <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Questions <input type="checkbox"/> Small Groups <input type="checkbox"/> Large Group <input type="checkbox"/> Speech Delivery
<p>MATERIALS:</p>	<p>Computer/laptop; internet (with access to YouTube); Smart Board; Copies of Veterans Day K-W-L Worksheet; Copies of the 1985 Ronald Reagan Veterans Day Speech; Copies of the 2016 Barack Obama Veterans Day Speech; Copies of the Compare and Contrast Veterans Day Speeches Worksheets; Copies of the Write Your Own Veterans Day Speech Instruction Sheet; Copies of the Write Your Own Veterans Day Speech Worksheet; Copies Grading Rubric Veterans Day Speech</p>
<p>Engage: Hook the students</p>	<p>Hand out the Veterans Day K-W-L. Allow students time to fill in the first and second section of the K-W-L worksheet. Ask students to think about a time when they have made a sacrifice. Ask students to think about what they might be willing to die for.</p>
<p>Explore: Students make sense of a concept through observations.</p>	<p>Hand out copies of the 1985 Ronald Reagan Veterans Day Speech and the 2016 Barack Obama Veterans Day Speech. Have students read along as you play the video of Ronald Reagan delivering his speech here: https://youtu.be/z9dyxHN0q-Y and of Barack Obama delivering his speech here: https://youtu.be/gg3Alkh2z_c Hand out the copies of the Compare and Contrast 2 Veterans Day Speeches Worksheets. Students will complete the worksheet by comparing the speeches of Reagan and Obama, denoting the differences and the similarities. Hand out the copies of the Write Your Own Veterans Day Speech Instruction Sheet and Write Your Own Veterans Day Speech Worksheet. Go over the instructions and the grading rubric with the students.</p>
<p>Explain: Teacher introduces formal vocabulary.</p>	<p>Teacher will assign review appropriate vocabulary-types of speeches: informative, persuasive, etc.</p>
<p>Elaborate: Students apply what they have learned.</p>	<p>Students will compare and contrast the Veterans Day speeches of Presidents Reagan and Obama. Students will research a topic appropriate for a Veterans Day Speech. Students will complete the Write Your Own Veterans Day Speech as they are conducting research/interviews for their speech. Students will write their speech, then “deliver” the speech to their class. Students will brainstorm a way to serve veterans in their local communities on Veterans Day. See the last page of this lesson plan for suggestions for service.</p>
<p>Evaluate: assessment.</p>	<p>Teachers should choose which activities to use as formal/informal assessments.</p>
<p>Enrichment/Service-Learning Project</p>	<p>Students will participate in an activity to Remember and Honor Veterans on Veterans Day. Encourage students to participate in the Wreaths Across America Oral History Project by Clicking Here.</p>

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Name _____

Veterans Day K-W-L

What I KNOW:

What I WANT to KNOW:

What I LEARNED:

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Remarks by President Ronald Reagan on Veterans Day, 11-11-85

Arlington National Cemetery

Arlington, Virginia

The President: A few moments ago, I placed a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and as I stepped back and stood during the moment of silence that followed, I said a small prayer. And it occurred to me that each of my predecessors has had a similar moment, and I wondered if our prayers weren't very much the same, if not identical.

We celebrate Veterans Day on the anniversary of the armistice that ended World War I, the armistice that began on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. And I wonder, in fact, if all Americans' prayers aren't the same as those, I mentioned a moment ago. The timing of this holiday is quite deliberate in terms of historical fact but somehow it always seems quite fitting to me that this day comes deep in autumn when the colors are muted and the days seem to invite contemplation.

We are gathered at the National Cemetery, which provides a final resting place for the heroes who have defended our country since the Civil War. This amphitheater, this place for speeches, is more central to this cemetery than it first might seem apparent, for all we can ever do for our heroes is remember them and remember what they did — and memories are transmitted through words.

Sometime back I received in the name of our country the bodies of four marines who had died while on active duty. I said then that there is a special sadness that accompanies the death of a serviceman, for we're never quite good enough to them—not really; we can't be, because what they gave us is beyond our powers to repay. And so, when a serviceman dies, it's a tear in the fabric, a break in the whole, and all we can do is remember.

It is, in a way, an odd thing to honor those who died in defense of our country, in defense of us, in wars far away. The imagination plays a trick. We see these soldiers in our mind as old and wise. We see them as something like the Founding Fathers, grave and gray haired. But most of them were boys when they died, and they gave up two lives — the one they were living and the one they would have lived. When they died, they gave up their chance to be husbands and fathers and grandfathers. They gave up their chance to be revered old men. They gave up everything for our country, for us. And all we can do is remember.

There's always someone who is remembering for us. No matter what time of year it is or what time of day, there are always people who come to this cemetery, leave a flag or a flower or a little rock on a headstone. And they stop and bow their heads and communicate what they wished to communicate. They say, "Hello, Johnny," or "Hello, Bob. We still think of you. You're still with us. We never got over you, and we pray for you still, and we'll see you again. We'll all meet again." In a way, they represent us, these relatives, and friends,

Remember-Honor-Teach

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and they speak for us as they walk among the headstones and remember. It's not so hard to summon memory, but it's hard to recapture meaning.

And the living have a responsibility to remember the conditions that led to the wars in which our heroes died. Perhaps we can start by remembering this: that all of those who died for us and our country were, in one way or another, victims of a peace process that failed; victims of a decision to forget certain things; to forget, for instance, that the surest way to keep a peace going is to stay strong. Weakness, after all, is a temptation — it tempts the pugnacious to assert themselves — but strength is a declaration that cannot be misunderstood. Strength is a condition that declares actions have consequences. Strength is a prudent warning to the belligerent that aggression need not go unanswered.

Peace fails when we forget what we stand for. It fails when we forget that our Republic is based on firm principles, principles that have real meaning, that with them, we are the last, best hope of man on Earth; without them, we're little more than the crust of a continent. Peace also fails when we forget to bring to the bargaining table God's first intellectual gift to man: common sense. Common sense gives us a realistic knowledge of human beings and how they think, how they live in the world, what motivates them. Common sense tells us that man has magic in him, but also clay. Common sense can tell the difference between right and wrong. Common sense forgives error, but it always recognizes it to be error first.

We endanger the peace and confuse all issues when we obscure the truth; when we refuse to name an act for what it is; when we refuse to see the obvious and seek safety in Almighty. Peace is only maintained and won by those who have clear eyes and brave minds. Peace is imperiled when we forget to try for agreements and settlements and treaties; when we forget to hold out our hands and strive; when we forget that God gave us talents to use in securing the ends He desires. Peace fails when we forget that agreements, once made, cannot be broken without a price.

Each new day carries within it the potential for breakthroughs, for progress. Each new day bursts with possibilities. And so, hope is realistic and despair a pointless little sin. And peace fails when we forget to pray to the source of all peace and life and happiness. I think sometimes of General Matthew Ridgeway, who, the night before D-day, tossed sleepless on his cot and talked to the Lord and listened for the promise that God made to Joshua: "I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."

We're surrounded today by the dead of our wars. We owe them a debt we can never repay. All we can do is remember them and what they did and why they had to be brave for us. All we can do is try to see that other young men never have to join them. Today, as never before, we must pledge to remember the things that will continue the peace. Today, as never before, we must pray for God's help in broadening and deepening the

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peace we enjoy. Let us pray for freedom and justice and a more stable world. And let us make a compact today with the dead, a promise in the words for which General Ridgeway listened, "I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."

In memory of those who gave the last full measure of devotion, may our efforts to achieve lasting peace gain strength. And through whatever coincidence or accident of timing, I tell you that a week from now when I am some thousands of miles away, believe me, the memory and the importance of this day will be in the forefront of my mind and in my heart.

Thank you. God bless you all, and God bless America.

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Remarks by President Barack Obama on Veterans Day, 11-11-2016

Arlington National Cemetery

Arlington, Virginia

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Thank you so much. Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you so much. Thank you. Thank you very much. Please -- thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Secretary McDonald, Mr. Hallinan, distinguished guests and, most of all, our extraordinary veterans, and your families: The last time I stood on these hallowed grounds, on Memorial Day, our country came together to honor those who have fought and died for our flag. A few days before, our nation observed Armed Forces Day, honoring all who are serving under that flag at this moment.

And today, on Veterans Day, we honor those who honored our country with its highest form of service: You who once wore the uniform of our Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, or Coast Guard. We owe you, our thanks. We owe you, our respect. And we owe you, our freedom.

We come together to express our profound gratitude for the sacrifices and contributions you and your family made on the battlefield, at home, and at outposts around the world. But America's gratitude to our veterans is something always grounded in something greater than what you did on duty. It's also an appreciation of the example that you continue to set after your service has ended -- your example as citizens.

Veterans Day often follows a hard-fought political campaign -- an exercise in the free speech and self-government that you fought for. It often lays bare disagreements across our nation. But the American instinct has never been to find isolation in opposite corners. It is to find strength in our common creed, to forge unity from our great diversity, to sustain that strength and unity even when it is hard. And when the election is over, as we search for ways to come together -- to reconnect with one another and with the principles that are more enduring than transitory politics -- some of our best examples are the men and women we salute on Veterans Day.

It's the example of young Americans -- our 9/11 Generation -- who, as first responders ran into smoldering towers, then ran to a recruiting center and signed up to serve. It's the example of a military that meets every mission, one united team, all looking out for one another, all getting each other's backs.

It's the example of the single-most diverse institution in our country -- soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, and coastguardsmen who represent every corner of our country, every shade of humanity, immigrant and native-born, Christian, Muslim, Jew, and nonbeliever alike, all forged into common service.

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It's the example of veterans -- patriots -- who, when they take off their fatigues, put back on the camouflage of everyday life in America and become our business partners and bosses, our teachers and our coaches, our first responders, city council members, community leaders, role models -- all still serving this country we love with the same sense of duty and with valor.

A few years ago, a middle-school student from Missouri entered an essay contest about why veterans are special. This is what he wrote: "When I think of a veteran, I think of men or women who will be the first to help an elderly lady across the street. I also think of someone who will defend everyone, regardless of their race, age, gender, hair color, or other discriminations."

After eight years in office, I particularly appreciate that he included hair color. But that middle-schooler is right. Our veterans are still the first to help; still the first to serve.

They are women like the retired military policewoman from Buffalo who founded an AMVETS post in her community and is now building a safe place for homeless female veterans with children.

They are men like the two veterans from Tennessee -- one in his fifties, one in his sixties -- who wrote me to say they would happily suit up and ship out if we needed them. "We might be just a little old," they wrote, "but we will be proud to go and do what we were taught to do."

Whenever the world makes you cynical; whenever you seek true humility and true selflessness, look to a veteran. Look to someone like First Lieutenant Irving Lerner. Irving was born in Chicago to Russian Jewish immigrants during World War I. He served as a bombardier in the Army Air Corps, flying dozens of missions toward the end of World War II.

When he returned home, Irving did what a lot of veterans do -- he put away his medals, he kept humble about his service, started living a quiet life. One fall day, walking down Sheffield Avenue on Chicago's North Side, a stranger stopped him. He said, "Thank you for your service" -- and he handed him a ticket to see the Cubs play in the World Series. Now, it's a good thing Irving took that ticket because it would be a while until his next chance.

Irving worked hard, managing the warehouse for his brother-in-law's tire company. He got married -- to a sergeant in the Women's Air Corps, no less. He raised four children -- the oldest of whom, Susan, is celebrating her 71st birthday today. And on a June morning many years ago, another one of Irving's daughters, Carole, called to check in. Her mother answered but was in a rush. "We can't talk," she said, "your father is being honored and we're late." Carole asked, "Honored for what?" And the answer came: for

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his heroism in the skies above Normandy exactly 50 years earlier.

You see, Irving's children never knew that their father flew over those French beachheads on D-Day. He never mentioned it. Now when they call to check in, his children always say, "Thank you for saving the world." And Irving, sharp as ever at 100 years young, always replies, "Well, I had a little help."

Whenever the world makes you cynical, whenever you doubt that courage and goodness and selflessness is possible, stop and look to a veteran. They don't always go around telling stories of their heroism, so it's up to us to ask and to listen, to tell those stories for them, and to live in our own lives the values for which they were prepared to give theirs.

It's up to us to make sure they always get the care that they need. As Bob mentioned, when I announced my candidacy for this office almost a decade ago, I recommitted this generation to that work. And we've increased funding for veterans by more than 85 percent. We've cut veteran homelessness almost in half. Today, more veterans have access to health care and fewer are unemployed. We helped disabled veterans afford prosthetics. We're delivering more mental health care services to more veterans than ever before because we know that not all wounds of war are visible.

Together, we began this work. Together, we must continue to keep that sacred trust with our veterans and honor their good work with our own, knowing that our mission is never done. It is still a tragedy that 20 veterans a day take their own lives. We have to get them the help they need. We have to keep solving problems like long wait times at the VA. We have to keep cutting the disability claims backlog. We have to resist any effort to outsource and privatize the health care we owe America's veterans.

On Veterans Day, we acknowledge, humbly, that we can never serve our veterans in quite the same that they served us. But we can try. We can practice kindness. We can pay it forward. We can volunteer. We can serve. We can respect one another. We can always get each other's backs.

That is what Veterans Day asks all of us to think about. The person you pass as you walk down the street might not be wearing our nation's uniform today. But consider for a moment that a year or a decade or a generation ago, he or she might have been one of our fellow citizens who was willing to lay down their life for strangers like us. And we can show how much we love our country by loving our neighbors as ourselves. May God bless all who served and still do. And may God bless the United States of America.

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Compare/Contrast 2 Veterans Day Speeches

Ronald Reagan 1985
Veterans Day Speech

Barack Obama 2016
Veterans Day Speech

	BOTH	

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Write Your Own Veterans Day Speech

Directions:

This assignment will require you to write a 5 to 7-minute speech, that would be appropriate to deliver at a program honoring veterans on Veterans Day.

1. You have choices to make to complete this assignment.

CHOICE #1

- Interview a Veteran you know, for example, a family member or neighbor who has served in the military
- Research a famous Veteran, for example, Ike Eisenhower or George Patton
- Research Veterans Day, write about the history of Veterans Day
- Research a famous war-era poem, for example, *In Flanders Fields*, write about the poem
- If you have another topic in mind, discuss it with the teacher before using that topic

CHOICE #2

- Decide if you are going to deliver your speech in front of the class, or if you are going to submit a video of you making your speech to the teacher.

2. Complete the Write Your Own Veterans Day Speech Worksheet to assist you in organizing and writing your speech. Your entire speech will not “fit” in the worksheet, it is merely a starting place for you to write your speech. The worksheet should be turned in with a type-written copy of your speech.

Research and Organize

Research until you drop. This is where you pick up the information, connect the ideas and arrive at the insights that make your talk fresh. You’ll have an easier time if you gather more information than you need. Arrange your research and notes into general categories and leave space between them. Then go back and rearrange. Fit related pieces together like a puzzle.

Develop Structure to Deliver Your Message

Your goal is to inform. Outline your speech and fill in the details:

- a) Introduction – The early minutes of a talk are important to establish your credibility and likeability. Personal anecdotes often work well to get things started. This is also where you’ll outline your main points.
- b) Body – Get to the issues you’re there to address, limiting them to three points at most. Then bolster those few points with illustrations, evidence, and anecdotes. Be passionate: your conviction can be as persuasive as the appeal of your ideas.
- c) Conclusion – Wrap up with feeling as well as fact. End with something upbeat that will inspire your listeners.

3. If necessary, go back and read through the speeches by Reagan and Obama. Those speeches are both approximately 11-12 minutes long.

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Write Your Own Veterans Day Speech Worksheet

My speech topic is: Veterans Day Name _____

Introduction:		
Point #1	Point #2	Point #3
Facts, opinions, life examples to support this message: • • •	Facts, opinions, life examples to support this message: • • •	Facts, opinions, life examples to support this message: • • •
Conclusion:		

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Veterans Day Speech Grading Rubric

_____/10 – Introduction

_____/10 – Point #1

_____/10 – Point #2

_____/10 – Point #3

_____/10 – Conclusion

_____/10 – Eye Contact, Posture & Body Movement

_____/20 – Word Choice & Organization, Informative Content with Sufficient Facts & Through Research

_____/5 – Volume

_____/5 – Articulation & Pronunciation

_____/5 – Speaking Rate & Overall Flow

_____/5 – Time: _____ (5 – 7) minutes

_____/100 – **SPEECH GRADE**

Teacher Notes:

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____

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“Find a Way to Serve” on Veterans Day

- Make Thank You cards to Veterans you know in your community, or in a local VA Home or VA Hospital. Let them know you appreciate their service to our country.
- Collect items for “Survival Back-Packs” for homeless veterans with socks, caps, gloves, toothpaste, a toothbrush, and other toiletries to be distributed to homeless vets in your community. Many large cities hold Operation Stand Downs for Veterans. For more information, [Click Here](#).
- Form a school club whose focus is community service work. Organize it so it is sustainable, so future classes can participate.
- Read aloud to a veteran who is visually impaired.
- Create a cookbook to sell and donate profits to a charity that helps veterans.
- Help an elderly veteran with yard work.
- Interview senior veterans and report on – personal histories, community, and stories of character.
- Make gift baskets and deliver to veterans in hospitals.
- Sing, perform a play, give a magic show, host a dance, or play an instrument for veterans.
- Become pen pals with residents of a local veterans’ home.
- Write letters to be included in soldier care packages. [Operation Gratitude](#) sends over 250,000 packages to Servicemen and Women, and First Responders annually, the link above provides guidelines for participation in their program.

[DoSomething.org](#) is the largest non-profit exclusively for young people and social change. Their digital platform activates millions of young people to create offline impact across the globe.