

How I Use the Website: Writing and Listening

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Educate.Today offers short video segments on a wide range of topics. The short videos make it easy to help the students turn and talk or brainstorm questions. When searching for videos to stir my students' thinking on Veteran's Day, I found many videos!

I decided I wanted my students to work on the standards that address writing and listening:
Writing 6—Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.

Writing 7—Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

Speaking and Listening 1—Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

Speaking and Listening 2—Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

Speaking and Listening 3—Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric.

I used the video segments Military 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 to build background for my students. Actual interviews with veterans answered questions ranging from what skills and abilities were learned in the service to what the mindset was when going into first combat. The student learning target was to write a short essay showing understanding of the subject under investigation. After discussing the video segment, the students discussed and chose three main points that they thought was the most interesting to them about the military.

The students were then given writing prompts to choose from to complete a short essay:

****Create a new Veteran's Day tradition. Write a persuasive paragraph to convince your readers to adopt this new tradition. Use specific examples to support your answer.**

**** In an informational paragraph, explain the importance of Veteran's Day.**

****Armistice means an agreement made by both sides in a war to stop fighting for a certain time; a truce; peace; ceasefire. Explain why it is important to celebrate peace and the people who fight in wars during the same holiday.**

**** Write a thank you note to a veteran.**

****Think of a list of character traits you believe a soldier needs and explain why.**