

Lesson Plan: Mission Persuasion — Sharing Our Planet

Lesson Overview

Subject: Language Arts / Persuasive Writing

Grade Level: 5 (Age 11)

Duration: 50 Minutes

Theme: Sharing the Planet (Environmental Stewardship & Responsibility)

Materials Needed

- Blank paper and colored markers/pencils
- A "Secret Mission" envelope (or a folder)
- Printed or digital images of a honeybee, a plastic bottle, and a bicycle
- Whiteboard or large chart paper
- Sticky notes

Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- **Identify:** Define the four pillars of persuasion: Audience, Purpose, Opinion, and Reasons.
- **Analyze:** Determine who an author is trying to convince in a text or advertisement.
- **Create:** Develop a basic persuasive "pitch" focused on a topic related to sharing the planet.

1. Introduction: The "Shared Pizza" Hook (10 Minutes)

The Hook

Ask the student: "Imagine we have one large pepperoni pizza to share between you, a hungry grizzly bear, and a professional athlete. Who gets the biggest slice? Why?"

Listen to their response. Point out that they just used **persuasion** to try to change how a resource is shared.

Objective & Theme Link

Explain that today we are learning how to use our words to protect the things we share—our air, our water, and our animals. This is called "Sharing the Planet." To do this effectively, we need the "**Big Four**" Tools.

The "Big Four" Vocabulary

- **Opinion:** What you believe (e.g., "We should stop using plastic bags").
- **Purpose:** What you want to happen (e.g., "To get people to use cloth bags").
- **Audience:** Who you are talking to (e.g., Store owners? Kids? Your parents?).
- **Reasons:** The "Why" that backs up your opinion (e.g., "Because turtles think bags are jellyfish and eat them").

2. "I Do": Modeling the Big Four (10 Minutes)

The instructor displays an image of a **Honeybee**.

Instruction: "I want to persuade my neighbors to plant more flowers for bees. Watch how I find my Big Four."

- **My Opinion:** Bees are the most important workers on Earth.
- **My Purpose:** I want people to stop spraying chemicals on their lawns.
- **My Audience:** People who live on my street (Adults).
- **My Reason:** Without bees, we wouldn't have apples, strawberries, or chocolate!

Teacher Note: Explain that if the audience was a group of 5-year-olds, the reasons might change to "Bees are fuzzy friends" rather than "Biodiversity impacts."

3. "We Do": The Planet Protector Brainstorm (15 Minutes)

Show two prompts and work together to fill out a "Persuasion Map" on the board or paper.

Scenario A: The Plastic Bottle

- **Topic:** Using reusable water bottles at school.
- **Discussion:** "Who is the audience?" (The Principal). "What is our purpose?" (Get a water bottle filling station). "What is a strong reason?" (Reduces waste in the school bins).

Scenario B: The Bicycle

- **Topic:** Riding bikes to the park instead of driving.
- **Discussion:** "Who is the audience?" (Our busy parents). "What is our purpose?" (To get them to let us bike). "What is a reason?" (It saves gas money and is good exercise).

Active Check: Ask the student to identify which "Reason" would work best for a parent versus a friend.

4. "You Do": The 60-Second Pitch (10 Minutes)

The student chooses one "Sharing the Planet" topic from a list (or creates their own):

- Protecting local parks from litter.
- Turning off lights to save energy.
- Starting a compost bin at home.
- Saving water while brushing teeth.

The Task: Create a mini-poster or a "60-Second Pitch" that clearly labels the **Big Four**. They must draw their audience and write their opinion and two reasons.

Success Criteria:

- The Opinion is clear (I think...).
- The Audience is specific (e.g., "My classmates" instead of "People").
- There are at least two logical Reasons.

5. Conclusion: The "Exit Pitch" (5 Minutes)

Recap: Ask the student: "Why does the audience matter? Would you talk to a CEO the same way you talk to your baby brother?"

The "Exit Pitch": The student presents their 60-second pitch. After they finish, they must name one thing they learned about "Sharing the Planet."

Closing Thought: "Persuasion isn't just about winning an argument; it's about making the world a better place by helping others see why the planet is worth sharing."

Adaptability & Differentiation

- **For Struggling Learners:** Provide "Sentence Starters" (e.g., "I believe we should... because..."). Use pre-cut pictures for the Big Four categories.
- **For Advanced Learners:** Introduce the concept of a **Counter-Argument**. "What is one reason someone might disagree with you, and how can you answer them?"
- **Multi-Sensory:** Have the student record their pitch as a "Radio Ad" on a phone or tablet.

Assessment

- **Formative:** Check for understanding during the "We Do" brainstorm sessions.
- **Summative:** Evaluate the "60-Second Pitch" poster for the presence of all four pillars (Audience, Purpose, Opinion, Reasons) and alignment with the theme.