



# Community Connection

Reaching out in times of need



Lesson Objective: Students will create letters to send to those on the front lines incorporating song lyrics.

Bell Ringer: Think of 2-3 songs that are particularly uplifting or encouraging to you. Write down the title of those songs.

# Reality.....

In times such as these, we are even more aware of the loss of human connection. It is not human nature to stay 6ft away from people, halt all social interaction and stay home for long periods of time. We know it is for our safety and the safety of others, however, it's not easy.

# Choir Creates Community

Music can be an uplifting and powerful force for good. Humans are the vehicle for making the music and because it is something we do collectively, we build strong bonds with others that are more substantial than those whom we do not make music alongside. If you've seen the news, you've seen thousands of Italians singing together from their balconies, senior citizens standing 6 ft apart singing God Bless America together, and even the iheart radio living room performance bringing artists together to make music for a good cause.

# Community Expansion

While we have been told to “shelter in place,” there are many people, some we know, who are on the front lines fighting to save lives and keep the necessities of living going for us all. They are sacrificing the safety of their own health as well as the health of their families to put food on the shelves, make deliveries, provide medical care, and make decisions that will keep us safe. These people have always been in our community, but we are counting on them now more than ever and they are making great sacrifices for us.

# Reaching Out

During these times, it is important to find a way to reach out to those most impacted by this virus and share the gift of song with them. Our target audience for this lesson will be people who work in the medical field and patients at various health care facilities.

# Step 1-Choose Your Lyrics

With the target audience in mind, choose a song that is particularly meaningful and uplifting to you that you think would be meaningful to somebody working in the healthcare field, or a patient in the hospital or nursing facility.

Once you've chosen the song, copy and paste the title and lyrics to a google or word document. Note: You will be printing the document so that you can mail it.

## Step 2-Write To Healthcare Providers

Compose a letter of encouragement to a healthcare provider using your song lyrics. Talk about the lyrics, why you chose that song, how they may be able to find comfort and encouragement in those lyrics, and thank them for the job they are doing and offer any other words of encouragement you feel may be appropriate. Make sure you proofread your work when you are finished with the letter. These are generic letters, so you will not be provided any names. A generic greeting at the head of the letter will be fine.



## Step 3-Write to Patients

You will repeat steps 1 and 2 and write an additional letter to a patient in either a nursing home, Veteran's home, or mental health facility. If you chose to write to a Veteran, please thank them for their service.

You can use the same song lyrics, or a different song if you choose.

## Step 4- Save Your Work

It's always good to save your work! You may want to come back to it later or send out more letters.

## Step 5- Initial Greeting

It is important that those getting letters understand what to do with them.

Please enclose a separate note to the distributor at the facility letting them know who you are, why you wrote the letter and that you would appreciate them delivering your letter to a person they feel would benefit. Thank them for all they do and for distributing.

## Step 5-Choose Letter Destinations

The next slide contains information from healthcare facilities that have reached out personally wishing to receive letters. Physical addresses have been provided for you to mail your letters. The minimum expectation is to choose 2 facilities, but you are welcome to send as many as you like.

# Contacts List

University of Kansas Health System-Strawberry Hill

Att: Kaitlyn Sutton

901 N 5th St.

Kansas City, KS 66101

Horizon Health and Rehabilitation Center

Attn: Activities Director

660 S Martin Luther King Blvd.

Las Vegas, NV 89106

# Contacts Continued

Cameron Veterans Home (Note: This is the only address for Veteran mail)  
1111 Euclid Ave  
Cameron, MO 64429

The Village  
320 Little Brick Rd.  
Cameron, MO 64429

# Addressing An Envelope

Put your cover letter and your lyric letter in the envelope and seal.

1. Your name and address goes in the top left hand corner of the envelope.
2. The destination's name and address goes in the middle of the envelope
3. The stamp goes on the top right hand corner of the envelope.

# Example

<b>Your Name</b> <b>Street Address</b> <b>City, State, Zip Code</b>	<b>Stamp</b>
<b>Chipola College</b> <b>3094 Indian Circle</b> <b>Marianna, Fl. 32446-2053</b>	



# Mail your letter.

There are two ways to mail your letter.

1. After you've gotten your mail for the day, stick your letter in the mailbox and lift the flag on the box so your mail carrier knows you have mail to send.
2. You can take it to the post office and put the letter in the blue bin outside of the post office.

# You did it!

While you may never get a response from the person who reads your letter, I know they will be so grateful and appreciative to know that somebody they have never met cares about them and the work they are doing. Thank you for completing this lesson!