

Lucky Dog Humane Education- ELVIS – Self (Advocate) Portraits

Aligns to the following Common Core Standards for K-5

(ELA = English Language Arts)

! **ELA Speaking and Listening** - Standards 1, 4 & 6

Aligns to Social Emotional Learning Outcomes

! **Self Awareness:** Identifying emotions, thoughts and values

! **Self Management:** Self-discipline - Impulse control

! **Social Awareness:** Perspective-talking - Empathy - Respect for others - Diversity

! **Relationship Skills:** Communication - Relationship building

! **Responsible Decision-making:** Identifying problems - Analyzing situations - Solving Problems - Ethical responsibility - Reflecting

OBJECTIVE: To inspire children to feel empathy and compassion as well as think of ways they can create change. To encourage children to advocate for causes that are important to them. To empower children to use their voice and get involved to be a part of creating a better world.

PREPARATION: Students will meet PAWfessor ELVIS and learn about his family's mission to advocate against discrimination and bullying. To reinforce concepts of **ADVOCACY** -read **BOOKS ON CHILD ADVOCACY** (i.e. *Maggie's Second Chance* by Nancy Furstinger, *Malala Yousafzai: Warrior with Words* by Karen Leggett Abourayo, *One Plastic Bag* – By Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of the Gambia, and *The Promise* – By Nicola Davies)

Follow up with an interactive session on getting involved, helping others, and speaking up for change. This gives students basic knowledge of being a responsible citizen and doing their part to create change. Introduce the children to the term “advocate” and encourage them to become an advocate for a cause that is important to them.

IMPLEMENTATION:

After Meeting PAWfessor Elvis and reading books about Advocacy, the teacher will facilitate a class discussion on causes that are important to each student. The students may plan to start a club or help a cause together or they may all have different causes that are important to them.

Once each student has decided on a cause that is the most important to them, have them make a “self-advocate” puppet or portrait. (Self-portrait, paper doll template or paper bag puppet, wearing a slogan shirt and carrying an advocacy sign)

Materials: Paper, precut “paper doll” silhouettes, or brown lunch bags, plus colored pencils/crayons/markers, yarn (hair), construction paper (clothes, sign), popsicle stick (for sign stick), glue

Concepts: Building Character, helping children think about ways to make a difference, empowering students to become advocates for a cause or causes that are important to them.

CONCLUSION/EXPANSION: Have the classes map community needs and resources and present their ideas for a schoolwide Service Learning Project. Have the school vote on which project the school will participate in as a whole. **Note: the project will not be everyone's first choice. Be sure to display the self-portraits through the halls and empower students to continue to follow their passions as well as join the school wide project.**