

# SPARK Lesson Plan: Discovering Resilience through Beethoven and Music

## Situation (Real-World Connection & Objectives)

### Learning Objectives

- Students will explore the theme of resilience in the face of adversity, focusing on Louis's journey and Beethoven's experiences with deafness.
- Students will analyze the emotional impact of music and how it can be a form of expression.
- Students will develop empathy and understanding for individuals with disabilities, specifically those who are deaf or hard of hearing.

### Real-World Applications

- This lesson connects to various fields such as music therapy, audiology, and social work, highlighting careers that support individuals with disabilities.
- Students will learn about the significance of representation and advocacy for people with disabilities in society, preparing them for future roles as informed citizens and advocates.

## Problem (Authentic Challenge)

### Complex, Open-Ended Problem

Students are tasked with designing a multimedia presentation that addresses the following question:

**How can music serve as a tool for expression and resilience for individuals facing challenges similar to Louis and Beethoven?**

### Considerations:

- Research the experiences of Beethoven and other musicians with disabilities.
- Explore different forms of musical expression and their emotional impacts.
- Analyze how music can foster community and understanding among people with different abilities.

# **Aspirations (Student-Centered Goals & Action Plan)**

## **Specific, Measurable Goals**

- Students will conduct research on Beethoven's life and experiences with deafness, writing a summary of their findings.
- Students will create a multimedia presentation (video, podcast, or digital storytelling) that includes:
  - Personal reflections on their emotional connection to music.
  - An analysis of how music can be a form of expression for individuals facing challenges.
  - At least one original piece of music or sound that they feel represents their findings.

## **Action Plan**

1. **Research Phase:**
  - Investigate Beethoven's life and the Heiligenstadt Testament.
  - Explore contemporary musicians who are deaf or hard of hearing.
2. **Reflection Phase:**
  - Write a personal reflection on how music affects their emotions and thoughts.
3. **Creative Phase:**
  - Develop the multimedia presentation using tools like digital storytelling platforms, video editing software, or audio recording apps.
4. **Presentation Phase:**
  - Share their presentations with the class, fostering discussion and feedback.

# **Result (Concrete Learning Outcomes)**

## **Knowledge and Skills Gained**

- Students will gain a deeper understanding of historical and contemporary figures in music who have faced adversity.
- Students will develop research, analytical, and presentation skills.
- Students will enhance their empathy and understanding of people with disabilities, fostering a sense of community and advocacy.

## **Future Applications**

- This lesson prepares students to engage in conversations about disability awareness and representation.

- Students will be better equipped to advocate for accessibility and inclusivity in their communities.

## Kismet (Creativity & Innovation)

### Strategies for Creativity and Innovation

- Encourage students to explore various artistic mediums to represent their ideas, such as:
  - **Digital Storytelling:** Create a narrative that connects their personal experiences with music.
  - **Hands-On Prototyping:** Build an instrument or create a soundscape that communicates their message.
  - **Collaborative Brainstorming:** Work in groups to discuss and combine their ideas before finalizing their presentations.

### Pathways for Idea Development

- Host a "Music and Resilience" showcase day where students can perform or present their projects to the school community.
- Facilitate peer feedback sessions to encourage collaboration and iterative improvement of their projects.

By engaging with this lesson plan, students will not only learn about music and resilience but also develop critical thinking and creative problem-solving skills applicable to numerous real-world challenges.