

Lesson 2 - Kindling Activity

**Find out what students know about the school now
Let them learn from other students, and the teacher(s)**

Starts from Whole Class, Moves to Small Groups Sharing-out to the Class

Objectives

Brainstorming

Writing - making a list – taking notes

Practice communication skills one-on-one and in small groups

Develop leadership and presentation skills

Assess students' prior knowledge

Materials needed

A yearbook from the past (recent past or further past)

Paper

Pencils/pens

Folders or journals

-Briefly review things the students learned about [Talent Elementary](#) from the Flip Book.

-Ask them to think about what would be in a Flip Book if they made one now, which would be seen as history to future students. Help them understand that "now" will be "history" in the future. Ask them to think about what they know about their own school right now.

-Ask them to write down things that they individually know about the school and/or their class. Here are some thoughts to prime student brainstorming:

- What would you want students in the future to know about the school or your classroom?
- Do you know any school or class rules?
- What do you like or dislike about the school or the classroom?
- Do you have morning music?
- What do you see around the room, or out the window?
- Do you know the name of the Principal? The cafeteria workers? The janitor?
- Describe the room, the library, the office, your desk...

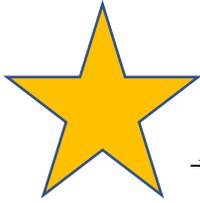
-Show examples of description from a yearbook, if you have one

- They may use a [Word Bank](#) to assist with writing (see explanation below).

-Set a timer to five minutes.

Notes: Students who need help with spelling or writing words can get help from a Word Bank. A Word Bank is a large sheet of paper, or a whiteboard, on which the teacher will write a word if a student requests it. If another student asks for the same word, or the same student asks for the same word again, the teacher can either point to it in the Word Bank, ask another student to identify which word it is, or give the student clues (starting and/or ending letters, etc.). During a writing exercise a dozen, two dozen or even three dozen words may appear in the Word Bank where students can find them and use them. It speeds along student writing, helps students write with confidence and helps students learn words.

Additional Note: If teachers want to, they could conduct a discussion about what changes the students would like to see at their school. How could it be improved? They may want to put their requests or suggestions in a letter, written individually or as a class, to the school Principal.



ACTIVITY!!

-After five minutes, tell the students that they may wander about the room sharing what they have written with others or getting new ideas from other students (Kindling). If someone sees something that they did not yet write down, they may copy it from the other student, or other students may copy from their list. Give the students about 15 minutes to do this part. Their lists will grow rapidly.

-Finally, send the students to convenient groups (ones you have used before). Ask them to “Kindle” in those groups, i.e. share and get ideas from other students. Allow 10 minutes for this part and then ask each group to appoint a leader (usually best accomplished by all students in the group pointing at the person they think is their leader-this normally works well and decides the leader in less than 3 seconds).

-The leaders will share out the combined knowledge of the persons in each group.

For 2nd Grade students: Students will write their favorite thing about their school on a piece of paper that will go into their folder. They may choose to draw it if the teacher decides this is okay.

For 3rd Grade Students: Students will record their list in their journal. They may want to illustrate parts of it.