Native Report Season 17 Episode 5

Watch the Video:
Ojibwe Language Books: Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe (Minnesota Historical Society Collaboration)

Grade level: 10-12
Time needed: 2 class periods

Materials Needed:
Video linked above
Copy of student viewing worksheet

Minnesota ELA Standards
10.2.1.2 Write with command of grammar and mechanics to influence voice and style.
10.2.2.2 Write to represent personal perspective, identity, and voice as a member of a global community.
11.2.6.1 Write to create, engaging and orienting the reader, establishing context and narrative point of view, and applying basic and advanced literary techniques in various literacy forms, including, by not limited to personal or autobiographical essays, building on skills learned in previous years.
11.2.6.2 Write narratives, poetry, and other creative texts with details and effective technique to express ideas. Apply structural elements characteristic of the personal essay or autobiographical essay.
10.3.1.1 and 11.3.1.1 Exchange ideas through storytelling, discussion, and collaboration, both as facilitator and participant, expressing ideas, intentionally considering the perspectives of Dakota and Anishinaabe people as well as other perspectives.

Objectives:
- Use critical thinking to engage with the Native Report video.
- Listen to a story and write it down as a narrative in first person.
- Effectively use descriptive language to paint a picture.

Activities:
1. Watch the video
2. Complete the worksheet questions
3. Write a short story
4. Share and discuss stories with the class

Questions for class discussion:
- What was it like turning someone’s spoken story into a written one?
- What challenges did you have in writing this story?
- Why is it important to use descriptive language in writing stories?
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Directions: Watch the video and respond to the following questions in complete sentences.

1. Why was it important to release these Ojibwe language books?

2. Identify two of the topics mentioned that are featured in the books.

3. What does Anton explain is the difficulty in having stories in indigenous languages written down in book form?

Directions: Complete the following activity on a separate piece of paper. Please write at least one full page.

Recording the stories of our elders is an important way to keep their tales and lessons alive for generations to come. Identify an elder or someone you look up to in your life. Ask them to tell you a story about a lesson they learned during their life so far, then write their story using first-person speech as though you were that person. Write using their voice and reflecting the emotions they used while telling their story.