

## LESSON PLAN

# WRITING THE FUTURE™

CONTEST  
DEADLINE  
MARCH 12!

Your students are the innovators of tomorrow! Tap into their creative minds with this lesson plan and contest about making their communities a better place.

## OBJECTIVE

Students will write informative text and use SEL and ELA skills such as producing clear and coherent writing, identifying problems, analyzing situations, and solving problems.

## TIME

45 minutes

## MATERIALS

- Writing the Future! entry form A for grades K–1, or entry form B for grades 2–6
- Whiteboard or chart paper

**1. Start a conversation** with students about how they are part of a community and how they contribute to that community. Ask: *How do you help your family? How do you help your friends or neighbors?*

**2. Introduce the idea of innovation.** To innovate means to come up with new ideas. People innovate to solve problems. They might invent something new or find a way to make something better. Share examples of past community issues and how they were solved. For instance, when people started driving cars, both drivers and pedestrians faced serious dangers. New inventions, such as crosswalks, seat belts, and rearview mirrors, helped make our lives safer. With illness and disease, scientists developed vaccines and medicine to prevent illness and make sick people better.

**3. Have older students contribute** other innovations that have solved community problems. You can prompt them with physical innovations such as the elevator or public garbage cans, or ideas such as volunteer fire departments, homeless shelters, or neighborhood health clinics. For younger students, share the innovations listed above and challenge them to identify the issues the innovations solve.

**4. Brainstorm problems** that students see in their community. Answers may include litter, bullying, lost pets, and a range of others—there are no wrong answers.

Invite the class to brainstorm possible innovations to solve these problems. Encourage them to think: *How are these problems being solved now? How could they be solved better in the future?*

**5. Pass out copies** of the Writing the Future! entry form (A or B) that best matches your students' abilities. Instruct students to identify one problem they would like to address and then design an innovative solution. Assist younger students in filling out the written responses. Entries will be judged using the following criteria:

- **Clarity** How well is the innovation explained? Does the drawing clearly represent the innovation?
- **Creativity and originality** How unique is the innovation?
- **Effectiveness** How effectively does the innovation fulfill its intended purpose or answer the prompt question?

## SUPPORTING ALL LEARNERS

### Grades K–1 (Form A)

Depending on their abilities, have them write or simply draw their answers.

### Grades 2–3 (Form B)

Ensure they write complete sentences and make a clear argument about how their innovation will help those in their community.

### Grades 4–6 (Form B)

Guide them to conduct a safe internet search to research the problem they want to solve, and provide support for how their solution will address that problem.



student contest

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**Innovators are always coming up with new ideas to help people. Use the space below to design your own way to help your community.**

**The problem that you'd like to solve in your community:**

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**A drawing of your solution:**

**How your solution will help people in your community:**

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NAME

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GRADE

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SCHOOL NAME AND ADDRESS

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TEACHER NAME

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TEACHER EMAIL

student contest

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