

Lesson 2 – What does it mean to be gifted?

STUDENTS WILL NEED ACCESS TO A COMPUTER FOR THIS SO MAKE SURE TO TELL THEM BEFORE COMING TO ADVISORY.

Remind students of the norms the group created. Should do this at the start of every advisory.

Students are going to ponder this question at the beginning of advisory:

“What does gifted mean to you?”

Their only constraint is this must be summed up in a single word (i.e. smart, talented, scary, potential)

Students will then go to www.menti.com on their Chromebooks and insert their word (remind them to make sure they are spelling it correctly).

Beforehand you will have to go to www.mentimeter.com and set up a word cloud. It is a free service. Once you get signed up you go to New Presentation. Under templates click on “word cloud”.

Under word cloud you insert the question “What does gifted mean to you?” and set it that people can only put in 1 vote per entry. It will give you a code. This is the code you give to students when they go to www.menti.com in order to create the word cloud.

While students are doing this you will want to have logged into www.mentimeter.com and pulled up the presentation, projecting it on the wall. As students begin to enter their word, the various words will arrange themselves, some being bigger than others depending on how many kids choose the same word.

When everyone is finished you will have a word wall that will spark a discussion. You can use the following questions to lead your debriefing.

Discussion questions

- Which words are the largest? Why do you suppose these words were popular amongst the group?
- Are there any words that would have been even larger but there was different variations of the word? (i.e. someone spelled it wrong, it was pluralized, or verbed)
- What word surprised you? What was surprising about this?

- Now that you see the words, is there one you like better than the one you submitted? Why do you think this is a better word?
- Why do you think there are so many different responses to the same question?

Follow up

As a follow up you may do any of these activities.

- Have students make a video testimonial describing what it means to be gifted.
- Have parents participate in the activity at parent nights. Have them compare their answers to what the student group came up with.
- If there is more than one advisory group, combine the word clouds to give an overall impression of what the team thinks.

Then have the students sit in a circle and pose the following question:

How does being gifted make you the person you are?

A few reminders about the discussion part:

- Make sure your participation is minimal (let the students determine where the discussion is going)
- Silence is perfectly OK
- Find ways to encourage quiet students to participate without calling them out
- Don't let any one student dominate the conversation
- Be ready for a follow up question if a student touches on something that can be explored further