

Schoolhouse Rock in Review



Overview

What is one way you could remember something important you learned this year so that you can use it next year? How about using an ear worm which is a catchy song that you can recall easily? Schoolhouse Rock were songs that were used to help kids learn about their math facts, grammar rules, principles of science, and important historical events. Now it is your chance to create a song that helps others to remember a valuable lesson(s) that was learned this school year.

Questions to Consider

- What is something important you learned this school year that you think would benefit you next year?
- What are the important aspects of this lesson and how could you capture them in a phrase or two?
- How could you turn these aspects in a song?
- What makes a song memorable?
- How do you present that song to others to make it memorable?

Product

You will write a catchy song that captures the importance of the lesson you think you should remember for next year. You will then make your own video of this song so that others can watch it and remember important lessons from the year.

<p>DAY ONE What is a Schoolhouse Rock?</p>	<p>DAY TWO What is a lesson you think would be good to remember for next year and why is this important?</p>	<p>DAY THREE What are the important aspects of this lesson?</p>	<p>DAY FOUR What makes a catchy song?</p>	<p>DAY FIVE How do you capture these important aspects? Select your song</p>
<p>DAY SIX Write your lyrics for your song</p>	<p>DAY SEVEN Write your lyrics for your song</p>	<p>DAY EIGHT Write your lyrics for your song</p>	<p>DAY NINE Write your lyrics for your song</p>	<p>DAY TEN Write your lyrics for your song</p>
<p>DAY ELEVEN Create video of your song</p>	<p>DAY TWELVE Create video of your song</p>	<p>DAY THIRTEEN Create video of your song</p>	<p>DAY FOURTEEN Create video of your song</p>	<p>DAY FIFTEEN Present your song</p>

LESSON ONE

What is a Schoolhouse Rock?

Watch the Schoolhouse Rock video "Conjunction Junction"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RPoBE-E8VOc>

1. What does a conjunction do?
2. What are three examples of conjunctions?
3. What images do they use to help you to understand the function of a conjunction?
4. What you consider this song catchy or sticky?
5. What about it makes it so?

LESSON TWO

What are some valuable lessons you have learned this year?

Either have a discussion as a class, pair and share between partners, or have students write a reflection about five valuable lessons they have learned this school year.

Use the graphic organizer to help them organize their thoughts:

What are the five lessons you feel were most important this school year?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Explain why you think each of these lessons are important.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

What are some elements that made these lessons stick out to you or what made them memorable to you (you can write phrases, draw pictures, make a list, etc.)

LESSON THREE

How do you capture these important aspects?

Analyze a specific Schoolhouse Rock song and how they put in the important aspects people should know.

Look at Schoolhouse Rocks "I'm Just a Bill"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FFroMQIKiag>

What important information is given in this song?

- Capitol Building is where bills are passed (Capitol Hill)
- Sitting in committee means congressmen discuss and debate
- How laws/bills start as ideas
- Contacting your local congressman
- Congress must decide whether a bill becomes a law
- Most bills don't get very far
- Die in committee means they vote on you unfavorably
- If committee passes, it goes to the either the House or the Senate. Once it passes in one it must go to the other
- If Congress votes to pass it must go to the president for a signature
- President has veto power

Do you feel you have a general understanding of the process of how a bill becomes a law?

LESSON FOUR

What is important about your lesson

Choose one of these lessons you feel is important and write down the aspects that someone would need to know to learn it.

After you have created some phrases you want to teach and choose a song, print up the lyrics to that song using <http://www.songlyrics.com/> or some other site.

Go through the lyrics and see where you can insert your key words and phrases.

What is the topic of your lesson _____

What are ten important things someone should remember about the lesson you have chosen?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

How could you condense these aspects in a short phrase or two?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

What are some songs that come to mind when thinking about your lesson that might go with your topic or some of the phrases you have created?

LESSON FIVE

Shooting a video for your song

Use a website such as WeVideo, FlipGrid, or Seesaw.

You can film your video and add any enhancements, graphics, animation, etc.

Tips for a Better Experience

- Props and costumes always enhance the creativity aspect.
- The chorus should contain the main idea of what it is you are teaching. This is the part people will remember the most.
- If it helps, put subtitles in the video so people understand the lyrics more clearly.
- Make sure the music is not so loud to drown out your singing.
- Get others involved. Recruit friends or family members to participate.
- Don't worry about how good your voice sounds, just have fun with it. People will respond to your level of excitement.

Project Rubric

Students:

Overall	Creativity/Catchiness	Understandability	Educational
Excellent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entire song sticks in your head, you are humming a few bars even after the song is done. Performer uses props, costumes, graphics that enhance the understanding of the lesson. Song chosen is not only appropriate but it is a wonder Weird Al himself hasn't made a song using it. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audience can understand very clearly what the lyrics are saying. The chorus captures the main idea of the lesson in an inventive manner. Song is organized so that the lesson builds upon itself, teaching the concept. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The concept of the lesson is conveyed in the song clearly, explained well and in depth. Teaches something that would be very important for those listening to remember. Lyrics are clever in how they teach you the concept.
Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parts of the song, especially the chorus, stick in your head, you are able to remember what the song was about. Performer uses props, costumes, graphics but they do not always enhance the understanding of the lesson, just there for show. Song chosen is appropriate but it does not seem like a natural fit, some parts are forced. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audience can understand what the lyrics are saying most times but a couple of places hard to tell. The chorus captures the main idea of the lesson but enhance its learning of it. Song is fairly organized, but there are a few places where things seemed shoved or at of place. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The basic concept of the lesson is conveyed in the song, but not much depth to it. Teaches something that would be important for those listening to remember but not as important as others. Lyrics teach you the concept but in a straightforward manner, not clever.

Needs Improvement

- Song is forgettable, you have trouble remembering what it was about soon after hearing it.
 - Performer either does not use any props, costumes, or graphics, or they distract from the understanding of the lesson.
 - Song chosen is not appropriate, doesn't seem to fit the lesson being taught.
- Audience cannot understand what the lyrics are saying, either garbled or audio issues.
 - The chorus does not really capture the main idea of the lesson.
 - Song is not organized well, just seems randomly put together with no thought how it builds upon itself.
- The concept of the lesson is lost in the song clearly, hard to tell what is being taught.
 - Teaches something that is not very important for those listening to remember.
 - Lyrics get some of the lesson wrong, causing misunderstanding.