



SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH WORD CLOUDS

By Jim Bentley

Activity Description

Students will create “word clouds” using excerpts of letters and speeches by famous women. Students may use the Internet and visit the free website <http://www.wordle.net> to evaluate text in a unique way. Afterwards, students discuss their findings. In word clouds, those words that appear most frequently are given greater prominence, allowing the reader or student to draw conclusions on dominance of themes in a document, or the tone the author intends in the writing. The prominence of specific words can help students predict or reflect on the primary focus of any given document.

Suggested Grade Level

All grade levels

Estimated Time to Complete

Varies

Objectives

Students will

- read primary source documents;
- analyze vocabulary found within primary source documents;
- draw conclusions, evaluate a theme, and identify the tone of primary-source documents.

Materials Needed

- Computers with Internet access
- Primary-source document text
- Computer printer if word clouds are to be printed upon completion

Activity Procedures

1. To get started, the teacher can take students online to access primary-source documents which are to be incorporated into instruction.
2. Once the text is found, students can copy the text from the primary source document and then paste it into the Wordle.net website. (See brief how-to; PowerPoint screen appears below.)

