

BECAUSE YOU WERE

MONTAGUE WORKSHOP LESSON 2

Learning Target:

- Students will understand that who they are shapes who others become.

Materials:

- YouTube Video: [Because You Were](#)
- I AM _____ BECAUSE YOU WERE _____ [sign](#)
- Pencils
- Markers
- Chart Paper

Suggested Grouping:

- Mixed ability
- Group size 3-4 students

PROVIDE

each student with a copy of the I AM _____ BECAUSE YOU WERE _____ [sign](#). Give students time to complete the sentence. Post signs around the classroom and invite students to do a gallery walk to read their classmates' ideas.

TECH TIP: Publish students' signs in a [Paper Slide Video](#) or [Line Up Video](#) to share their ideas with a wider audience.

SHARE

with students that we can all be positive and loving friends to everyone around us. We can make a difference in others' lives even if we don't personally know them.

BRAINSTORM

in whole group, with students creating a list on chart paper of ways they can show encouragement and positivity to help others feel more comfortable becoming who they are. We all become the best version of ourselves from others' love, encouragement, and support.

TECH TIP: Use a [Google Doc](#) or [Flipgrid](#) to allow all students to contribute ideas to a digital list.

END

the lesson by inviting students to set a specific, attainable goal regarding how they will show encouragement and positivity to others.

BEST PRACTICE:
Have students revisit their goals at a later date to assess progress toward achieving that goal.

PART ONE

VIEW

the YouTube Video: [Because You Were](#).

DIVIDE

students into small groups to discuss the video.

- How did the video make you feel? ([feeling words](#))
- Who has impacted your life?
- In what ways do your actions affect the people around you?

ENGAGE

Engage students in a discussion about ways we are all connected. Discuss the following questions:

- How could you change the world by loving someone next to you?
- How does that statement connect to "I AM _____ BECAUSE YOU WERE _____."
- How can your classmates, teacher, community workers, state/country leaders, and others around the world shape who you are in a positive way?

Examples:

- Classroom: I AM comfortable BECAUSE YOU WERE kind enough to make an inviting classroom atmosphere.
- State/Country: I AM free to go to school and learn BECAUSE YOU WERE brave and fought for my freedom.

TECH TIP: Use tools like [Padlet](#) or [Poll Everywhere](#) to engage the class in real time.

I AM

BECAUSE YOU WERE

_____.

BECAUSE YOU WERE

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PART TWO

REMIND

students that history is filled with role models, inventors, leaders, and voices of people whose stories still need to be told.

TECH TIP: *Skype or Google Hangout with museums, local agencies or government officials to learn more about these stories.*

PROVIDE

students with books, videos, websites, journal articles, reading passages, etc. related to great individuals from your curriculum. These people can be discussed and researched by the whole group, a small group, or in pairs.

TECH TIP:
Utilize a content curation tool like [Blendspace](#), [Padlet](#) or [SymbalooEDU](#).

Questions to guide research:

- What are a few very important details about these people and their accomplishments?
- What events and experiences helped these people become the best version of themselves?
- Who do you believe helped shape these people to become who they were?
- Who do you think gave them a chance and encouraged them?

ASK

students to consider the statement I AM _____ BECAUSE YOU WERE _____. How would the person they researched complete the statement? Encourage students to think critically and draw conclusions based on their research.

INVITE

students to share the story of the person they researched and their completed statement with the class.

TECH TIP: *Use [Shadow Puppet EDU](#), [Chatterpix](#), or [PowToon](#) for creative storytelling.*

EXPRESS

how important it is to continue telling the stories of people who have passed on. We are all changed in a positive way by people who are living and those who have lived before us. How did learning about these important people change you for the better?

Suggested Extensions

- Discover [Kindness in the Classroom](#)
- Give students an opportunity to write thank you notes to the people who have made a difference in their lives.
- Create raps, poems, or artwork representing gratitude. Post online on a blog or website.
- Begin a RAK club at your school ([Random Acts of Kindness](#)).

Anchor Standards

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.1

Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.2

Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.5

Make strategic use of digital media and visual displays of data to express information and enhance understanding of presentations.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.L.6

Acquire and use accurately a range of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when encountering an unknown term important to comprehension or expression.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.6

Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.

ISTE Standards

6 Creative Communicator

Students communicate clearly and express themselves creatively for a variety of purposes using the platforms, tools, styles, formats and digital media appropriate to their goals.