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Relevant Writing Exercise for GED

Objectives: 1)Students will study the format for writing a business letter
2) Students will research and discuss information from the world-wide-web.
3) Students will write and mail a business letter.

Web sites used: www.nih.gov/news/stemcell/primer
www.senate.gov/~hatch

I used this lesson with my class during the summer. At that time, stem-cell research was very prevalent in the news, but ANY current topic of interest could be used.

1. First, I asked the class what they knew about the stem cells. The answer was not much.
2. I then handed out the basic information provided in the NIH web site listed above.
3. I then divided the class into groups and had each group read and report to the class on a section of the report.
4. We then discussed what we'd learned.
5. Next I put the class onto computers and had them research other sites devoted to stem cell research.
6. After each student had gathered some information, I had them write a paragraph summarizing what they had learned.
7. I then handed them an example of a business/persuasive letter. We discussed the format for this letter.
8. We then discussed Senator Hatch's stand on stem-cell research (see web site above).
9. After this discussion, I had each student write a letter to Senator Hatch where he or she either supported or disagreed with the Senator's stand on federal support for stem cell research.
10. The letters were then mailed to Senator Hatch's office.
11. Later, each student received a letter from Senator Hatch expressing his thanks for the interest and concern.