## Lesson Plans and Classroom Activities

Compiled below are Lesson plans, units, and engaging classroom activities, ordered by topic.  Most of these resources were provided by YouthBuild USA Teacher Fellows, a learning community of YouthBuild educators committed to providing quality resources to the YouthBuild network.

**MATH**

[24: A Mental Math Game](https://youthbuild.workforcegps.org/-/media/Communities/youthbuild/Files/Education/24-A-Mental-Math-Game.ashx)  
This math game allows students to practice and increase their fluency and automaticity of basic math skills in a fun and engaging way that encourages friendly competition.

[Balloon Powered Car Activity](https://youthbuild.workforcegps.org/-/media/Communities/youthbuild/Files/Education/Balloon-Powered-Cars.ashx)  
During this activity, students will reinforce their critical thinking skills, problem solving, and sense of community through building a balloon powered car in a group.

[Challenging Students to Discover the Pythagorean Relationship](https://youthbuild.workforcegps.org/-/media/Communities/youthbuild/Files/Education/Challenging-students-to-discover-the-pythagorean-relationship.ashx)  
Students will be able to determine the length of the hypotenuse of a right triangle if given the lengths of the two legs by implementing the Pythagorean Theorem. Students will be able to prove the theorem by drawing squares on all three sides of a right triangle.

[Improving Attendance through Math](https://youthbuild.workforcegps.org/-/media/Communities/youthbuild/Files/Education/Improving-Attendance-thru-Math.ashx)This is an interactive activity that encourages students to monitor their attendance goals using percentages.

[Math Madness](https://youthbuild.workforcegps.org/-/media/Communities/youthbuild/Files/Education/Math-madness.ashx)  
In this group activity students will practice various mathematical concepts through several games while promoting peer-to-peer sharing.

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**

[Egg Vocabulary](https://youthbuild.workforcegps.org/-/media/Communities/youthbuild/Files/Education/Egg-Vocabulary.ashx)  
This hands-on vocabulary building activity allows students to approach vocabulary within a text in a way that is accessible and fun. Words and definitions will be hidden in plastic eggs, and students will have to find their matches.

[Literature Circles](https://youthbuild.workforcegps.org/-/media/Communities/youthbuild/Files/Education/Literature-Circles,-A-Simple,-Effective,-Low-Cost-Activity-to-Use-in-Your-Classroom.ashx)  
This activity allows students to strengthen their reading and analytical skills through the use of group reading of both fiction and non-fiction texts.

[Walk and Talk Jigsaw](https://youthbuild.workforcegps.org/-/media/Communities/youthbuild/Files/Education/Walk-and-Talk-Jigsaw.ashx)  
 In this activity, students learn about the concept of “point of view” while reading about historical or literary figures, answering specific questions, and then acting out the point of view of these figures. This activity promotes students’ higher-order thinking, public speaking, and deep interaction with a text while making academic content “alive” and meaningful.

[Approaching Qualitative Research through Interviews](https://youthbuild.workforcegps.org/-/media/Communities/youthbuild/Files/Education/Approaching-Qualitative-Research-through-Interviews.ashx)  
This lesson helps students carefully read informational text so that they can develop effective interviewing skills. This lesson is part of a larger project where student interview community members regarding a chosen social issue.

[Classroom Quotable Ouotes](https://youthbuild.workforcegps.org/-/media/Communities/youthbuild/Files/Education/Classroom-Quotable-Quotes.ashx)  
This activity allows students to come together as a group on a weekly basis to share meaningful quotes and sayings. This promotes research, public speaking, interpersonal skills, positive self-expression, and critical thinking as students share and discuss together.

**SCIENCE**

[Energy Sunstainability](https://youthbuild.workforcegps.org/-/media/Communities/youthbuild/Files/Education/Energy-Sustainability.ashx)  
Students will give a presentation illustrating one of the major sources of power in the U.S.

[Hydroponics](https://youthbuild.workforcegps.org/-/media/Communities/youthbuild/Files/Education/Hydroponics.ashx)  
Students will learn about hydroponics plant growth, monitor a hydroponics classroom garden, and present classroom hydroponics to school staff.

[Intro to Stem-Cell Therapy](https://youthbuild.workforcegps.org/-/media/Communities/youthbuild/Files/Education/Intro-to-Stem-Cell-Therapy-Research-and-Debate.ashx)  
In this activity, students will learn to describe and define concepts and vocabulary surrounding stem-cell research/therapy. After conducting research, students will present their findings and engage in discussion on this controversial topic.

[Life Science Ecology](https://youthbuild.workforcegps.org/-/media/Communities/youthbuild/Files/Education/Life-Science-Ecology.ashx)  
Students will learn how to create a compost and mini–garden in school, create a video of how to do self-watering container, and write an essay about how they think making a mini-garden will make an impact in a community garden.

[Solar Energy Photovoltaics](https://youthbuild.workforcegps.org/-/media/Communities/youthbuild/Files/Education/Solar-Energy-Photovoltaics-Lesson-Plan.ashx)  
Students will understand and apply the concept of measurements, linear and non-linear equations while gaining the ability to analyze scientific and technical information to determine hypothesis, data outcomes and application of those outcomes.

[Connecting with Our Natural History](https://youthbuild.workforcegps.org/resources/2015/08/18/10/48/YouthBuild-Teacher-Lesson-Plan-Connecting-with-Our-Natural-History)  
In this lesson, students will take a trip to a local park or natural area and learn some of the natural and human history. Students will then use this knowledge to write about what they have learned. Finally, they will use these writing pieces to help choose what type(s) of environmental community service projects they would like to do in the future.

**SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM**

[Introduction to Government](https://youthbuild.workforcegps.org/-/media/Communities/youthbuild/Files/Education/Introduction-to-Government/Introduction-to-Government_0.ashx)  
Students will define terms through a gallery walk and class discussion. Students will practice analyzing information in secondary texts and connect insights gained to understanding the text as a whole.

[Memes in the Classroom](https://youthbuild.workforcegps.org/-/media/Communities/youthbuild/Files/Education/Memes-in-the-Classroom.ashx)  
This lesson provides students with an opportunity to engage with content from a creative perspective by creating their own memes through smartphone/tablet technologies. Students will create a meme around the “socioeconomic ladder” concept as they demonstrate an understanding of “social mobility” and other social science terms.

[YB Providence Curriculum](https://youthbuild.workforcegps.org/-/media/Communities/youthbuild/Files/Sample-Documents-and-Forms/Miscellaneous/YB-Providence-Curriculum-pdf.ashx)  
Curriculum shared by YouthBuild Providence Plan includes samples of social studies, mathematics, physical science, life skills and construction assignments

**MISCELLANEOUS**

[3 I’s of Oppression](https://youthbuild.workforcegps.org/-/media/Communities/youthbuild/Files/Education/The-Three-I's-of-Oppression.ashx)  
Students will be able to demonstrate their understanding of the 3 “I”s of oppression by reviewing articles related to the various ‘isms associated with preserving power or denying power to certain groups of people. This activity allows students to either learn how to apply the 3 “I”s of oppression to current or historical events.

[Curriculum/ Mapping Exercise](https://youthbuild.workforcegps.org/-/media/Communities/youthbuild/Files/Education/Curriculum-Mapping-Exercise-doc.ashx)GED instruction planning document includes GED Classroom, training in basic construction, and construction worksite. This planning document includes model lesson plans for social studies, science, language arts and writing, mathematics, basic construction and plumbing.

[Motivations and Goals](https://youthbuild.workforcegps.org/-/media/Communities/youthbuild/Files/Education/Motivation-and-Goals.ashx)  
Throughout this activity, students will set goals and consider how they can best achieve them. They will learn the difference between short term and long term goals, and extrinsic and intrinsic motivations. At the end, students will write their goals into a contract and will be periodically reminded of what their goals are throughout the course.

[Question Formulation Technique](https://youthbuild.workforcegps.org/-/media/Communities/youthbuild/Files/Education/Question-Formulation-Technique.ashx)  
This activity provides students with an interactive method to generate student interest around a topic. Students will have 5-10 minutes to generate as many questions as they can, prioritizing 3 of those questions.

[Teaching Cooperative Learning Roles](https://youthbuild.workforcegps.org/-/media/Communities/youthbuild/Files/Education/Teaching-Cooperative-Learning-Roles.ashx)  
As students work on a project throughout the duration of the course, this activity will ask them to assume/choose certain social/work roles each time in order to improve emotional intelligence, navigational skills, and ultimately enhance their learning experience.

[The Being](https://youthbuild.workforcegps.org/-/media/Communities/youthbuild/Files/Education/The-Being.ashx)  
In this lesson, students will design and create a "being" that embodies qualities of people that make them feel safe. Students will engage in self-reflection in order to conclude what qualities they look for in people they trust.

[Theater of the Oppressed: Cop in the Head](https://youthbuild.workforcegps.org/-/media/Communities/youthbuild/Files/Education/Cop-in-the-Head.ashx)  
In this lesson, students will be introduced to the "Cop in the Head" concept which represents how external oppression impacts people at the personal level. This activity gives students the opportunity to communicate complex, socio-emotional ideas through physical movement.