Battling for Liberty: Tecumseh’s and Patrick Henry’s Language of Resistance
Lesson Plan: ELA & History
Grades 6-8
Duration: Lessons 1 & 2 of a 5 Lesson Series

Objective: SWBAT identify rhetorical devices in Patrick Henry’s speech and explain their effect.

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| Hook/Connection to Prior Knowledge | - As a whole class, brainstorm a list of speeches that students are familiar with
- In journals, students free-write about what makes these speeches memorable and what makes them persuasive                                                                                                                                   |             |
| Intro to New Material            | - Pass out copies of Patrick Henry’s speech and the analysis worksheet (see attached)
- Have students read the speech and take notes in the table
- Play the dramatized audio recording of the speech. Remind students of the setting and situation for the speech
- Give students a list of rhetorical devices and define them
- Model identifying 1-2 rhetorical techniques in the speech                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |             |
| Guided Practice                  | - Call on a few students to identify a few more techniques in the speech                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |             |
| Independent Practice             | - Have students work independently to identify techniques like repetition, emotionally charged words, metaphor, and rhetorical questioning                                                                                                                                                                   |             |
| Closing/Assessment               | - Students answer an exit slip about how the use of particular rhetorical devices makes the speech better, providing specific examples from the speech                                                                                                                                                     |             |

Lesson plan adapted from “Battling for Liberty: Tecumseh’s and Patrick Henry’s Language of Resistance” on the ReadWriteThink website (readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/battling-liberty-tecumseh-patrick-72.html?tab=4#tabs)
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