

Make your own "You" Tube and "I like to watch" books

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Education level (required): Elementary

Genre (required): Poetry

Time frame (required): One sixty-minute class period

Objective: This lesson is designed to allow students to decorate a viewing tool, conveying the idea that when we look through our own "you" tube, it helps us to focus on specific things that we can see that interest us.

Prior knowledge and skills: It's helpful if students already know how to fold a one-page zine or mini-book, but if not, the teacher can pre-fold them to have them available for students to use.

Required materials:

For the "you" tubes: Toilet paper tubes, 4x6 note cards, markers, stickers (optional), glue, preferably glue sticks for faster drying, scissors (if needed to trim notecard paper); for the mini-books: 8.5"x11" blank white computer paper, folding directions for making a one-page zine, pencils

Literary model: None

Sequence of Activities:

1. Every person sees unique things and sees differently than others. When you look in your own way with your unique interests, what do you see that's interesting to you and which may be different from what everyone else sees? To explore these questions, give each student a note card and markers and invite them to illustrate the blank side with their name and three or four drawings of things that they like with their three favorite colors. Provide stickers and other decorative items to embellish their image (if time, materials, and desire allows).
2. When the note cards are illustrated, provide glue and assist in placing glue from glue sticks on the lined side of the note card and wrapping their notecard around the tube so that it's covering the tube completely. Instruct students to hold the paper down until the glue sets well enough to be set aside.

3. Next pass out a sheet of paper to each student and [instruct them on how to fold the blank mini-books \(here is another tutorial to choose from\)](#). Alternatively, provide one pre-folded blank mini-book to each student to reduce time and challenge in having them learn to do it.

4. Next, have students look through their tubes at different things they like to watch inside the room (or outside if available) through their own “you” tube. Instruct students that when they see something interesting, they should record their observations on a page of their mini-book, possibly using a prompt such as, "I like to watch...." or “I see...” Instruct the students to describe each thing they see and what it is doing or where it is located. For example, "I like to watch...a tall red cup sitting on a flat brown desk." Or "I like to watch a wet brown nose sniffing on a long fuzzy snout." Encourage students to use as many description words as they can. Tell them to feel free to spell however makes sense for now!

5. Through this lesson, students will essentially be making a list poem by creating an initial list of all the observations they make by looking through their “you” tube, one observation per page. When they fill up all the pages, they can give their “you” tube book/poem a title. They can feel free to decorate or add drawings to their pages to accompany the words using colored markers (or other visual art supplies as are available).

6. Make sure student names are written on the title page or back page of the mini-book before they turn them in. Collect the "I like to watch" books and turn them into typed poems! Represent each page of text as a different line (or stanza) in the poem, as you see fit. Share the finished, typed poems with students and celebrate their work!