

Making Your Own Time Capsule: Fine Tuning Your Messages

Concept:

Since time capsules tend to be group projects, they offer a chance not only for individual self-reflection, but for teamwork, a chance to practice combining numerous personal expressions into a collective presentation.

Activity # 1: Developing a Classroom Time Capsule

Procedure:

1. Write the questions from the Time Capsule Brainstorming activity on the board and next to each one list every object suggested in response to that question. The questions are repeated below:
 - What do you like most about America? Wisconsin? Your town? Your school? The year 2007?
 - What do you like least?
 - What do you think will change the most in your lifetime? In your children's lifetimes?
 - When people look back, what do you guess they will think it special about America? Wisconsin? Your town? Your school? 2007 as opposed to other years?
2. Then the class can discuss the answers given, noting which objects people suggested more than once, which drew a strong response from class members, and which fit (or can be adapted to fit) within space and cost limitations, and which would be most likely to survive intact for a long period of time. Gradually, the class can begin making choices about which objects they would include in the time capsule.
3. For each object, a student or students should write a few sentences about why the class selected it. These descriptions should be included in the time capsule when it is sealed.
4. You will now need to assemble your time capsule and choose a suitable location for storing it. Because it is very difficult to find affordable, water and air-tight containers in which objects will be well preserved, you may want to consider using a box or Rubbermaid container and finding an out-of-the-way place inside the school where you can store the time capsule rather than burying it. Appendix B contains information for teachers on choosing, assembling, and finding a location for your time capsule.
5. After you have filled your time capsule with objects, included a list of the objects, and covered or sealed the time capsule, you will want to mark it with some identifying information on the outside. A form is attached for your use.

6. You are now ready to store (or bury) your time capsule. Remember to leave copies of the Time Capsule Identification Form in several places so people know where to find the time capsule when it is to be opened.

Time Capsule Identification Form

School: _____

Teacher: _____

Classroom: _____ **Grade:** _____

Date Buried or Stored: _____

Opening Date: _____

Where Time Capsule is Located: _____

Map: