



Jazz Night in America Shorts: Model Lesson Plans

Abdullah Ibrahim: How Improvisation Saved My Life

Model Lesson Plan for Middle School General Music Classroom (Grades 6-8)

Objective:

Learners will be able to define improvisation as a musical concept and identify real-world applications.

National Core Arts Standards:

MU:Re7.2.8 - Compare how the elements of music and expressive qualities relate to the structure within programs of music.

MU:Cn11.0.8 - Demonstrate understanding of relationships between music and the other arts, other disciplines, varied contexts, and daily life.

Activity:

1. Teacher presents discussion question: *What does it mean to improvise in music?*
2. Students pair up, discuss the question for one minute, and share their conclusions aloud with the class.
3. Students watch the video: *Abdullah Ibrahim: How Improvisation Saved My Life*.
4. Students write a one paragraph response to each of the following prompts:
 - a. *What does Ibrahim mean when he says that improvisation saved his life?*
 - b. *What are the skills one develops when studying improvisation?*
 - c. *How might these skills be useful in other aspects of one's life?*

Possible Modifications:

Students may be given an opportunity to respond verbally to prompts.

Materials Required:

Link to video:

<https://www.npr.org/2017/10/13/557418166/abdullah-ibrahim-how-improvisation-saved-my-life>

Technology Requirements:

Computer or mobile device with internet access

Means of Assessment:

Formative: Sharing of conclusions from discussion question.

Summative: Students submit written response to the teacher for assessment (sample rubric attached).