

Colonial Perspectives Project

The goal of this project is to help students appreciate that different people have different and valid perspectives on a given situation because of their background and life experiences.

The second goal of this project is to help students understand that there are a variety of ways to influence the opinions of others.

As a teacher, I am also curious to see how well I can evaluate student learning as they respond to our work through a variety of mediums.

Basic project outline:

1. Establish an understanding of place and time through reading, trips to explore the architecture of downtown Manhattan, a trip to Fraunces Tavern, and visits to the period rooms at the Museum of the City of New York.
2. Create colonial characters with families, homes, occupations, and backgrounds.
3. Hold several "town meetings" at which students will discuss, in character, the recent actions of King George and the British parliament as well as the actions taken by the colonists themselves.
4. Ask children to evaluate whose side they're on as they go along.
5. Present a final meeting at which students decide whether to sign the Declaration of Independence or not.