

Public Transportation in the City

*Created for **ED 5680 Transportation Teacher Workshop Series** by Jiangrong Ouyang, Foreign Language Immersion & Cultural Studies School, ouyang_48098@yahoo.com Submitted June 28, 2013.

Target Grade: 4th Grade

Duration: One Class period, 55 minutes

Lesson Overview: Through the whole class activity and small group discussions, students will be able to investigate different types of public transportation available in the city and the benefits and disadvantages of using public transportation. Students will compare public transportation to individuals driving their own vehicles in the city.

Sources Consulted:

Subway Ride by Heather Lynn Miller

Differentiation Strategies for Social Studies by Shell Education

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this lesson, students will be able to

- Describe the benefits and disadvantages of using public transportation.
- Record their answers on the provided chart.
- Explain their opinions through reasoning and personal experiences.
- Extend the concepts with more literacy reading and essay writing.

Benchmarks Addressed:

4-G5.0.1 Assess the positive and negative effects of human activities on the physical environment of the United States.

4-P3.1.1 Identify public issues in the United States that influence the daily lives of its citizens.

4-P3.3.1 Compose a brief essay expressing a position on a public policy issue in the United States and justify the position with a reasoned argument.

R.CM.04.01 Connect personal knowledge, experiences, and understanding of the world to themes and perspectives in text through oral and written responses.

S.RS.04.16 Identify technology used in everyday life.

S.RS.04.17 Identify current problems that may be solved through the use of technology.

S.IP.04.16 Construct simple charts and graphs from data and observations dealing with physical properties of matter.

List Materials & Quantities Needed:

Per student

one copy *Leveled Learning Centers*

writing papers and pencil

Per student group

one copy *Public Transportation Discussion Chart*

sticky wall chart paper(s)

color markers

New Vocabulary

Efficiency: producing desired results with minimum waste of time or effort

ex. *The assembly line increased the company's efficiency.*

Cost-effective: producing the best results for low costs

ex. *Taking the subway home is more cost-effective than driving home.*

Accessible: how easy it is to approach, reach, enter or use something

ex. *The number of bus stops in the city makes riding the bus very accessible.*

Infrastructure: the basic framework of an organization; foundation of a system

ex. *The infrastructure of a city allows cars to operate.*

Focus Question(s): Which way is the best way for you to get to school?
What are different ways to get around the city?

Classroom Activities:

1. At this lesson, students will begin the lesson with a focus question: which way is the best way for you to get to school? Students will respond based on the distance from their home to school to answer the question.
2. After getting enough responses, I will put up a map on the board that shows a short distance from point A (student's home) to point B (school) and another shows a longer distance from point A (student's home) to point C (school), divide students into 4-5 people per group, pass out the *Public Transportation Discussion Chart* and pencil.
3. Have students work in groups of 4-5 to discuss and record about the pros and cons of using public transportation on the chart provided for them. I will walk around to record my observations on the Public Transportation Discussion Rubrics.
4. Allow time for students to complete their activity and offer help as needed.
5. Have each group orally present their products to the class while I record their answers on the sticky wall chart paper.
6. Close the activity with a guided whole class review. The wall chart paper should include some of the following ideas:
Pros: cheaper; good for the environment; no cars or insurance needed; no need to find a parking space; good for health.
Cons: takes longer time; not convenient; does not take you to the exact places; not convenient for handicaps.
7. Have students write an essay about what they have learned: the benefits and disadvantages of using public transportation to assess students' accomplishment of the objectives.

Student Assessment: Use the *Public Transportation Activity Rubric* and an *essay about what they have learned: the benefits and disadvantages of using public transportation* to assess students' accomplishment of the objectives.

Public Transportation Discussion Chart

Pros	Cons

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Name _____

Public Transportation Interaction Rubric

Group Work

Effort _____ / 5

Involvement _____ / 5

Finished Project

Care in construction _____ / 20

Content shared _____ / 10

Neatness _____ / 5

Question

Preparation for discussion _____ / 20

Presentation

Answers to questions _____ / 15

Oral presentation skills _____ / 20

TOTAL _____ / 100

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Map for Student's Home to Schools

