Dr. Angela Brown
In the Classroom

Drama can be utilized in inclusive classrooms to support all students in all academic areas from English to Science. It helps students with disabilities and English language learners through supporting the communication of ideas in non-traditional ways. There is no set strategy to integrate drama into lesson plans, below is a variety of ideas that can be used to instead of traditional writing activities.

Improvise

Put students in groups of two or three, and assign the characters and the situation to the groups, perhaps using 3x5 index cards. Give a time limit of two to three minutes per scene. Students create the dialogue and movement themselves.

Mime and Dubbing

Have students act out short scenes without dialogue. The rest of the class then supplies the dialogue, developing the “script.”

Give “Voice” to an Inanimate Object

What would a stapler say if it could talk? Or an apple? Have students write monologues with inanimate objects as the character.

Act out the Story

Have students act out the story or part of the story, working in groups and assigning roles.

History Reenactment

Assume the character or individual that the student is researching.

More ideas:
Puppet Play
Masks
Performance Poetry

Role Play

Student assumes the role of an individual, for example a cashier when playing shop when learning about decimals and money. Can be used in science too, be a molecule or an electron.
As teachers it is our responsibility to teach academics as well as social skills. Many students with disabilities and many without face a deficit in this area. Using drama in the classroom can address these issues and help teach students the skills they need to be successful by modeling appropriate behaviors. This can be also used for conflict resolution in older students.

Using Role Play to Deal with difficult feelings:
Teach student a coping mechanism for the difficult feeling. For example jealousy. Teach them to shake it off by shaking their whole body and shrugging. Then have them role play the use of the coping mechanism. Have two students at a time and a much wanted item. You as the teacher give the item to the one student. You have the other student reach into their Mask drawer and put on their jealousy mask. Then you have them use their coping skill of shake it off and shrug! Switch kids and keep going.

Break It Down
1. Introduce target behavior or feeling.
2. Model target behavior or feeling.
3. Have students demonstrate behavior or emotion.
4. Introduce coping skill.
5. Model coping skill.
7. Role play scenarios when student would need to use the coping skill.
8. Praise lavishly!!

References


