

## Activity 4

## Gratitude

9/11

9<sup>TH</sup> THROUGH 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

<b>Goals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Define “gratitude.”</li> <li>■ List 3 people they are grateful for.</li> <li>■ Write a listicle explaining 5 practical ways to show gratitude.</li> </ul>
<b>Standards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.9-12.2</li> <li>■ CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.9-12.5</li> <li>■ CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.9-12.2</li> <li>■ CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.9-12.5</li> <li>■ CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.9-12.1</li> </ul>
<b>Materials</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Journal: Gratitude printable</li> <li>■ Internet access and a way to display the Internet for students</li> <li>■ A Listicle About Listicles! printable</li> <li>■ Chart paper (optional)</li> <li>■ Paper, pencils or pens, or computer and paper if preferred</li> </ul>
<b>Preparation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Print a copy of Journal: Gratitude for each student.</li> <li>■ Print a copy of A Listicle About Listicles! for each student.</li> <li>■ Optional: Preview a few articles containing lists (listicles) online and select 2 or 3 to share with the class.</li> </ul>
<b>Background</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ In the days after 9/11, people across the country felt united by a desire to help and support one another, creating an extraordinary spirit of empathy and resilience.</li> <li>■ Many Americans stopped thinking about the differences that often separate us, at least for a while.</li> <li>■ For those who lived through the tragedy of 9/11, that time of caring and helpfulness remains an important reminder that we are stronger as people, and as a nation, when we work together</li> </ul>
<b>Introduction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Ask students to share their definition of gratitude.</li> <li>■ Share that gratitude is having and expressing a deep sense of appreciation for the people, experiences, and objects that make life meaningful and fulfilling.</li> <li>■ Have 4 or 5 students provide examples of things they are grateful for.</li> <li>■ To help visual learners, you may wish to create a concept web of these examples on the board or chart paper.</li> <li>■ Invite students to reflect on their own experiences with gratitude by completing Journal: Gratitude to record three people they are grateful for, along with explanations for each.</li> </ul>

**Activity**

- Distribute a copy of A Listicle About Listicles! to each student.
- Have a volunteer read the listicle aloud.
- Discuss how the listicle uses the listicle format itself to convey key points about this type of informative writing.
- Ask students to explain whether they think this is an effective technique.
- Tell students that on their own paper or using technology, they will write an informative listicle (an article containing a list) that explains five practical ways to express gratitude.
- Go online to show students a few listicles if they need help getting started. Be sure to preview and select these before class.
- Have students work in small groups to brainstorm seven to ten ways to express gratitude.
- Each student should take notes as the group brainstorms so they can refer to their notes when writing.
- Remind students that although their informative writing will include a list, it must still contain an introduction and a conclusion. In addition, the body of the writing should contain a key point or two about each suggestion.
- As time permits, ask volunteers to share their listicles.



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Journal: Gratitude

Write about three people you are grateful for. Explain why you are grateful for each one in as much detail as possible.

I am grateful for \_\_\_\_\_  
because \_\_\_\_\_

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I am grateful for \_\_\_\_\_  
because \_\_\_\_\_

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I am grateful for \_\_\_\_\_  
because \_\_\_\_\_

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## A Listicle About Listicles!

Have you ever heard of a listicle? You may not have heard the ridiculous-sounding name before, but if you have ever been online, you have probably stumbled across more than one without realizing it. Blog writers are particularly fond of posting entries with titles like “7 Ways to Make Money Fast” or “3 Beauty Products You Didn’t Know You Need”.

A listicle, then, is a mashup of an informative article and a list. A listicle! Here are five things you should know about writing a listicle for the Internet:

- **Include a numeral in your title.** Unlike formal writing, online listicles usually have an informal tone. It is okay and even expected for a listicle to use a numeral (“6” instead of “six”) in the title – even if it is under ten!
- **Informative writing rules still apply.** Even a listicle has an introduction and a conclusion. In your introduction, tell readers what the topic is, enticing them to read on for more details. In the conclusion, summarize your main points or include a call to action based on the topic.
- **Keep the list short.** Listicles are meant to be relatively short, quick reads, so keep the number of items in your list low (ten or fewer). The more items you include, the less detail you should include about each item.
- **Details matter.** But do include some details! A listicle without details and extra information is just... well... a list. Save that for a shopping lists or a To Do list.
- **Make your list visually obvious.** You might do that with bullet points, as this article does, or you may wish to use bold headings (as this article does!) or even a numbered list.
- **Be accurate!** If you say there are five things you should know about listicles, then make sure you include exactly five items. Not four, and not six. See what we did there?

Keep these points in mind as you write your own listicle. By doing so, you can ensure you’re your listicle is engaging, informative, and enjoyable to read.