**Lesson plan**

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| Lesson title: Understanding the European Union |
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| Lesson brief descriptionThis lesson plan allows for interactive engagement while providing valuable information on European Union matters. It aims to deepen students' understanding of the European Union, its role, its impact on their lives, and the values it promotes. It encourages critical thinking, speaking, and teamwork through discussions and activities. |
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| Time (Lesson duration): 60’ |
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| Methodology: (group, individual, peer assessment, brainstorming, etc…)Brainstorming, individual work, group work, pair work |
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| Materials needed:Whiteboard and markersPrinted handouts with EU factsProjector (optional)PowerPoint presentation (optional)Videos (optional)Flip chart paper and markers |
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| Students’ age: 16 years old (10th Grade) |
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| Aims/Goals or SWBATs Students will be able to* Familiarize students with the basic structure and purpose of the European Union.
* Improve reading, speaking, and critical thinking skills through discussion and activities.
* Encourage students to express their opinions on the impact of the EU in their lives.
* Develop a deeper understanding of the EU’s role in promoting sustainability and active citizenship.
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| Lead-in *What’s going to happen here to introduce your students to the topic?* Time \_\_\_\_\_\_**Activity:** Think-Pair-Share**Instructions:**1. Ask students to think individually about what they know about the European Union (EU) for 1 minute.
2. Then, have them turn to a partner and share their thoughts for 3 minutes.
3. After the discussion, invite a few students to share what they discussed with the class.

**Goal:** Activate prior knowledg

| *What key-concepts could teachers focus on? What needs to be pre-taught?* Time \_\_\_\_\_1. Active Citizenship in the European Union
2. The Structure and Function of the European Union
3. European Union Values
4. Critical Thinking and Debate on the EU’s Role in Students' Lives
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| *List of activities with brief description of each one and time for each one:***1. Introduction to the EU (15 minutes)Activity:** Presentation or Discussion**Instructions:*** Present key facts about the EU, including its formation, objectives, member countries, and important institutions (e.g., European Parliament, European Commission).
* Use a PowerPoint presentation or a video to make the introduction engaging.

**Goal:** Provide foundational knowledge of the European Union.**2. Group Brainstorming Activity (15 minutes)Instructions:*** Divide the class into small groups.
* Ask each group to brainstorm and write down what they think are the pros and cons of being part of the EU on a flip chart paper.
* Each group presents their ideas to the class.

**Goal:** Encourage collaboration and active engagement, while solidifying the foundational knowledge of the EU.**3. Reading Activity (10 minutes)Instructions:*** Provide students with a short article or fact sheet about recent EU developments (e.g., environmental policies).
* Have students read the text individually and highlight key points.
* After reading, ask questions such as:
	+ What is the main idea of the article?
	+ What impact does this development have on member countries?

**Goal:** Enhance reading comprehension skills and critical thinking.**4. Discussion Activity: Debate (20 minutes)Instructions:*** Divide the class into two groups: one supporting the EU and the other opposing it.
* Allow each group time to prepare their arguments.
* After preparation, hold a structured debate. Optionally, appoint a moderator and a judge; set time limits for speaking to keep the activity organized.

**Goal:** Develop speaking skills, critical thinking, and encourage students to articulate their viewpoints. |
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| *What are other follow up (or homework) activities that can be included?*Follow-up (5 minutes)**Summary:**Recap the main points discussed during the lesson and clarify any questions students may have.**Homework:**Essay Assignment: For homework, assign students to write a short essay (300-500 words) on their views regarding the European Union and its relevance to their lives.**Goal:** Encourage personal reflection and reinforce writing. |
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| *What methodology / activities are used for assessment?*Participation in group discussions and activities.Quality of arguments presented during the debate.Essay for homework |
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| Other thoughts about this lesson plan:Consider incorporating a guest speaker from a local university or an organization that deals with EU matters, if possible.Plan a mock EU summit where students represent different countries and discuss current issues. |
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