After My Circus Leaves Town . . .

USE THESE INSTRUCTIONS WITH After My Circus Leaves BRAINSTORMING PACKET

Overview Talk with someone or write a letter describing your circus. What you did. How you felt. What will you do next?

By the end of this activity, child will

- Write/dictate a letter or tell someone stories about their circus experience
  - Use age appropriate grammar and sentence structure
  - Content and word choice are appropriate in the style of the circus

Telling the story about my circus . . .

Imagine . . . the grass is flattened and there is some litter scattered around. How are you feeling?

Recall all that you did at your circus. What stands out for you about the circus:
- What surprised you? What puzzled you? How do you feel about each activity?
- What would you do differently if you were in the Big Top tent a second time?

Back at home you decide to write a letter (or tell, or call) to someone so you can tell them all about your circus experiences. Can you decorate your letter with drawings or pictures of things that are most memorable? The music? The clown costumes? The elephants? The trained dogs or Big Cats? Maybe the acrobats? Or the Big Top tent? What surprised you? What would you like to do next?

What? Get Ready Brainstorm pg. 2

- Remember as many details as you can about your circus activities—make a list
- Draw or gather pictures or images of your circus
- Describe your feelings about each activity: the highs and the lows
- What will you do next? What might you do differently next time?

TIME ESTIMATE

Min. 1/2 – 1 hrs.

MATERIALS

- Paper / pencil
- Recording device: video, audio
- Drawing or imaging tools
- Pictures
My Multiple Intelligences engaged . . . Brainstorm pg. 3

- **Linguistic** – word choice in written and performed speech
- **Intrapersonal** – performance anxiety management, self-monitoring & correction & Final Reflections
- **Interpersonal** – consider what your reader or listener is interested in hearing about
- **Visual-spatial** – are images appropriate and interesting and do they enhance your words?

Preparation: Remember / Make Notes

- Spend some time thinking back over your circus experiences. You can use the Mindmapping strategy (below). Gather images and pictures. Gather any things that you made or created. Tell a story about each object. Why did you make those choices? What would you have done differently if you could do it again? What was most fun? What was hard to do? What are you most proud of?

Project Plan Brainstorm pgs. 4 & 5

Below are the steps that you will follow to remember, collect, draft and make final version of a letter or talking with someone about your circus experiences.

**Get Ready.** Review with your child the Brainstorming Packet After My Circus Leaves. Read the Telling your story starter (see below)

**Step 1.** Reflect, remember and collect your memories to make a list of your circus journey. *Tip: use the mind map template from previous activities.*

**Step 2.** Reflect on each activity you did. Pick key words to express your feelings about each activity (fun, colorful, intriguing, interesting ...).

**Step 3.** Use the key words you chose and the images, visuals, print outs you gathered and make a vision board out of it (see activity 3. Clown Costume). *Tip: you can cut out images from your documents, make drawings, collect*
images/words from magazines and print out new images. Put everything you picked together to create a visual memory of your circus journey!

**Step 4.** Present your circus vision board to a family member or a friend: tell them what you picked, why, what you wanted to illustrate etc.

**Fun & Fascinating!** Brainstorm pg. 4.

Use fun and unique circus words and phrases.

**FINAL Reflections** Brainstorm pg. 6

The parent should **not** provide an evaluation or grade of the child’s performance but instead the child can be queried on the process of writing / telling about their circus experiences and feelings:

- What did you do?
- What stands out for you about this activity?
- What surprises you?
- What would you do differently, if you were to do it again?
- What would you like to do next?

**Resources**

Google search. How to write a letter.

How to tell a good story.

Visual – multi-media story telling

**Tip:** Community Connections  Is there anyone: family, neighborhood or community your child can talk with about circus?
Learning Objectives / Common Core Standards

- English (grammar, sentence structure, coherence)
- Speech (public speaking, oral communication, rhetorical devices)
- Self Reflection, self-correction and judgment.

Mind Mapping Your Memories and Letter
Your Mindmap lists each of your circus activities. Check if you have a picture, image or object for the activities. Note how you feel about each activity: glad, sad, mad, bored, or excited. Would you do this activity again? What would you do differently next time?

Follow up and Extensions: Time to act! If you are fond of visual arts, drama, acting... it is your chance to make a video recording of your conversation or letter. Here are two options:
1. Think about the best way to bring your memories and feelings to life: do you have a favorite circus costume? Can you use unique circus words or phrases?
2. Do you want to record inside or outside? What props should have? Should you use music? If so, what kind?

Reflections:
Now that your circus an audience. Voice quality, to bring your stories to life. reflections are done, think about how it sounds to pacing, intonations and other element that help How does the audience hearing it feel?