

Title: “**Clerking For Judge Damon Keith**”

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ELA

Lesson Overview: Chapters 23/24-*The Keith Law Clerk Family*. A law clerk is a lawyer who researches and advises a judge/lawyer/ on cases. They are employed by the judge/lawyer and are very important to the review of cases and decisions. In this lesson students will write an essay describing characteristics they possess that would make them good candidates to clerk for Judge Keith...as if they were lawyers. The purpose of the lesson is to generate career ideas and choices in the field of law, increase writing skills and identify characteristics that would be important to this field of study.

Objectives: S.W. Write a rough draft citing personal characteristics that make them worthy candidates to the Keith Clerk Family.

S.W. revise and create a final draft of this essay.

Standards: (Showing both ELA and Social Standards)

CCSS.ELA Literacy WHST. 9-10 –Establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.

CCSS.ELA Literacy WHST. 9-19-Provide a concluding statement or section that follows or supports the argument presented.

CCSS.ELA Literacy. WHST. 9-10 Produce a clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task purposes, and audience.

HSCE-H8.3.1 Civil Rights Movement

HSCE-H8.3.2 Ideals of the Civil Rights Movement

HSCE-C2.2.3 Use past and present policies to analyze conflicts that arise in society due to competing constitutional principles or fundamental values.

HSCE-C3.2.2.2 Use court cases to explain how the Constitution is maintained as the supreme law of the land.

Time Required: 3-50 minute class periods and time at home for drafting and revising. Final paper due in one school week.

Session 1: Read segments of chapter 23 and 24 discussing the roles and characteristics of a law clerk. Assign rough draft essay discussing why the student would be a good choice for a clerk for Judge Keith. Begin brainstorming and outline for essay. Review the chapters.

Session 2: (Home) Write rough draft using notes and outline.

Session 3: Proofread and do partner reviews/peer checks of rough drafts.

(Homework) Begin final draft.

Session 4: Complete final draft.

Session 5: Students may present and share.

Recommended Grade Levels: 9-10

Topic: Essay writing addressing an Expository Piece of Literature. Crusader for Justice

Preparation:

Students with prior knowledge of Judge Damon Keith should be discussing the biography “Crusader for Justice” by Peter Hammer and Trevor Coleman. Review of the Writing Process.

Materials: Biography or chapter outline, board (for notes and brainstorming), computers, printer, flash drive (to save and print drafts).

Resources: Book- Crusader for Justice. Internet Research allowed for roles of Law Clerks and Judge Keith.

Procedures:

- Teacher to write “Characteristics of a Law Clerk” Brainstorm ideas, characteristics and list.
- Students to review chapter/s 23/24
- Discuss ideas and list them on the board.
- Review writing rubric.
- Allow time for brainstorming and discussion. Assign rough draft, peer review, proof reading, revising and final draft.

Extension Activities: 1) Teacher may do Mock Interview for clerks, may bring in volunteer lawyers/judges to hold interviews and give feedback. 2) Assign research and writing of opinions on current cases as if students were clerks.

Score essays based on CCSS rubrics attached.

Vocabulary

Appellate court	Judge
Appeals	Interview
Law Clerk	Characteristics
	Defendant
	Attorney
	Prosecutor

Mock Interview Protocol

The Mock Interview can be conducted by staff members from the school/or lawyers. Interviews can be conducted in the hallway with chairs set up or individual classrooms.

- A schedule for interviewing can be pre-written and posted.
- Students can be asked to dress professionally.
- Students should view You Tube interview samples to get an idea of what to expect. The teacher can do a sample, in class, to show students how they should present themselves. (Look interviewer in the eyes, smile, firm handshake, think before responding to questions, be prepared to give examples of their qualifications, thank them for their time....they should know that they need to have questions prepared for the interviewer.)

Sample Mock Interview Questions

1. Name three qualities you possess that would make you a good candidate for a clerking position for Judge Keith.
2. Why are you interested in becoming a clerk for Judge Keith?
3. What types of cases do you think you'd be most interested in?
4. What are some Civil Right cases that you are aware of?
5. Define Civil Rights?
6. What is the purpose of the Constitution?
7. How does the Constitution relate to court cases?
8. What do you admire the most about Judge Keith?
9. What were your future career plans after you finished Law School?
10. What re some of the main Civil Rights Issues we face today?