

Create a Wordle - Gratitude

EXPLANATION:

Expressing gratitude benefits the giver and the receiver! In this activity, the class expresses their gratitude for people, events, and their surroundings. Using the Wordle tool to create a visual word cloud will be an innovative way to share appreciation.

GRADE LEVELS: 11–12

STUDENT GROUPING: Whole-group discussion and teacher demonstration, plus individual creations

ACTIVITY LENGTH: 40–60 minutes

CASEL CORE COMPETENCY: *SOCIAL AWARENESS*

- Showing concern for the feelings of others
- Understanding and expressing gratitude
- You can learn more about the CASEL framework [here](#)

SCOPE OF TASK:

Gratitude is a multi-layered, complex concept with multiple definitions. Gratitude incorporates a general state of thankfulness and/or appreciation, as well as the recognition and appreciation of an altruistic gift. There is a wealth of evidence that reflects on the benefits people derive from expressing appreciation, thanks, and gratitude.

Incorporating Wordle into your classroom lessons is quick and easy! This online resource can be used in all curricular areas and is great for promoting critical thinking skills and exploring gratitude.

1. As a whole group, explore definitions of gratitude and appreciation. Ask students to search online dictionaries and come up with agreed meanings. These can be written on a board for later referral.
2. Question the students as to why gratitude is important to both the giver and the receiver—is there any research on the benefits of gratitude? Students can research online for examples of benefits.
3. Question the students about Wordle. Has anyone used the Wordle tool before, and can they model how it works? If not, investigate the web-based tool with the students.
4. Let the students know that the goal of the lesson is to explore gratitude and to use the Wordle tool to visually represent their appreciation. For reference, this video provides details on how to use the Wordle tool: https://player.vimeo.com/video/410480452?app_id=122963.



5. Work together as a whole group to experiment with the Wordle tool.
 - Choose something that everyone is grateful for and create a list of adjectives that describe what is appreciated—ask a student to record the list.
 - Keep in mind that a word can be recorded more than once, as this contributes to the final visual.
 - Copy and paste all the words into the Wordle tool and create!
 - Review the visual image, and discuss which words are prominent.



6. After the students have tried the tool and have experienced using a range of words that express gratitude and appreciation, ask individuals to make their own Wordles. The task involves:
 - Choosing something that you appreciate (e.g. a person, an act, a part of nature, or an event)
 - Reflecting on why you are grateful and writing a list of words that express the gratitude
 - Creating a gratitude Wordle—play with the display to make it reflect your feelings and gratitude, making some words more prominent than others
 - Giving increased value to certain words so that they appear larger on the Wordle
7. At the end of the lesson, ask the students to reflect on their experiences of expressing gratitude:
 - How did they feel while writing the list?
 - Did they recall memories?
 - If they created a Wordle about a person, how do they think the person would feel if they gave them the Wordle?

There is a lot to be thankful for! The process of taking a moment to make an intentional reflection of what one is grateful for, then creating a Wordle about it, is powerful for the giver and the receiver!

RESOURCES:

Wordle web tool: <http://www.edwordle.net/>

Online Video: “EdWordle Instructions,” from Anna Mihaylov, sourced from: https://player.vimeo.com/video/410480452?app_id=122963