

Intended for Grades: 4-6 **Estimated Time:** 6-8

Lesson Title: WHO IS YOUR MOUNTAIN? LAND? OCEAN?

Lesson Purpose: Students will:

- * Deepen appreciation of the environment and important people
- * Write an essay about individuals who help them grow and inspire them to become leaders
- * Optional: Demonstrate technology skills in publishing

Materials & Preparation:

- * Paper, pencil
- * Computers; supplies to print stories
- * Ability to scan images (optional)

Background Information:

Youth in Hawai'i are often aware of the natural features around them. Depending on location and family lifestyle, local youngsters may be very experienced in hunting mauka or fishing along their shoreline. Relationship to place runs deep in many Hawaiian and local families who strive to connect with their 'aina in the style of their ancestors.

This lesson is designed to help students look at the qualities of place and then relate them to people who support them. Spending time to talk about the mountains, land and ocean is important to build the connections between these environments and the characteristics of notable people.

By facilitating the writing process, where writers brainstorm, draft, and revise for content before editing for conventions, students are able to produce meaningful, beautiful work. This project can help youth grow appreciation and recognition of what and who is important to them. So... Who is your mountain? Who is your land? Who is your ocean?

Steps:

1. Introduce that students are going to create a personal narrative or story that relates to their lives. It will be highlighting people who are very influential to them. Discuss the definition of influence and influential as needed. Brainstorm some influential leaders (local or global).
2. Discuss leadership: Prompting questions can include:

What makes a leader?	Who are leaders in your community?
Who are leaders in your 'ohana?	Who are your role models?
3. Introduce the three questions you want students to answer in their personal story.
 1. Who is your mountain?
 2. Who is your land?
 3. Who is your ocean?
4. Provide support as needed to help students relate the characteristics of these places to the traits they experience from certain people in their lives.
5. Provide a model by sharing someone who is your own mountain, land, or ocean. Encourage students to write some key words that describe these three places.

6. Help students write down ideas for their first draft. You can have them create a pre-writing diagram or chart with their thoughts.
7. Review the writing process with students and provide time for them to draft, revise, edit, and publish a final draft. Include images to enhance the stories by having students draw or bring photos from home.
8. Plan a time to share and celebrate what students created.

Reflection Questions:

- * What did you learn about yourself after writing this essay?
- * What did you learn about others you shared about in your essay?

Resource:

Writing examples from 4-6 grade students
at Blanche Pope Elementary School, Waimanalo, O'ahu

"My mountain is my dad because he is tall, strong, and brave. He knows how to take care of me when I'm sick. He always sticks up for me when I am in trouble. He is the best dad I can ever have. He has courage to say anything that is on his mind. He is also majestic like the mountain. He always tries to make everybody happy." -KT-M, Blanche Pope Elementary

"My land is my mom because she takes care of me and she provides shelter for me. Without my mom, I wouldn't know where I would be. So for her being the land, she is the one who makes it possible for me to grow healthy and strong and to be pono. I want to be pono because I know that how I act reflects on my family."

-NG, Blanche Pope Elementary

"My ocean is my mom because she is like the ocean. My mom is calm as the ocean. She is smart like the ocean. Her face is the ocean. I can always see her face." - KC, Blanche Pope Elementary