

Lesson Outline 6: End of Unit Project - Dental Health Campaign

Meets Objective #5

- Students will analyze the relationship between diet and oral health, identifying foods that promote healthy teeth and gums and those that contribute to dental decay, and will discuss these findings in a group presentation or written report.
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Instructional Steps:

1. Introduction to the Project (10-15 minutes):

- **Video Viewing:** Start the lesson by watching the video titled "[Think Dental Health Doesn't Matter? Think Again!](#)" This video highlights the critical connection between dental health and overall well-being, particularly focusing on the consequences of neglecting oral hygiene.
- **Discussion:** After watching the video, discuss the importance of dental health and how it contributes to overall health. Emphasize the need for proactive dental care and how it can prevent more serious health issues down the line.

2. Scenario Overview (10 minutes):

- **Scenario Description:** Present the scenario to the students:
 - They have just started working as a dentist in an underserved community where patients typically only seek dental care when they experience pain, and many young children already have cavities.
 - Their goal is to improve the community's oral health through education and outreach.
- **Discussion:** Encourage students to think about the unique challenges faced by underserved communities, such as limited access to healthcare, lack of education on preventive care, and cultural or economic barriers to regular dental visits.

3. Campaign Development (20-30 minutes):

- **Instructions:**
 - **Identify the Target Population:** Students should first decide who their patient population is. They should consider factors such as age, socioeconomic status, cultural background, and where the population lives and works.
 - **Health Concern Focus:** Students will identify the primary oral health concern they want to address in their campaign (e.g., preventing cavities in children, promoting regular dental check-ups, educating on the dangers of gum disease).
 - **Campaign Format:** Students will choose to create a brochure, web page, or video for their campaign. Each format should include:

- An explanation of how dental health contributes to overall health.
- Specific educational content relevant to the identified health concern.
- Strategies for reaching and educating the community (e.g., hosting community workshops, distributing flyers at local schools, creating social media campaigns).
- Trust-building elements, such as testimonials, culturally relevant information, or partnerships with community organizations.
- **Outreach Plan:** Students will brainstorm and include ideas on how they will reach the community, gain trust, and encourage proactive dental care.
- **Materials:**
 - Access to digital tools for creating brochures, web pages, or videos (e.g., Google Docs, Canva, video editing software)
 - Sample templates or project planning documents
 - Research materials on the connection between oral and overall health

4. Project Creation (40-60 minutes):

- **Activity:** Students will work individually or in groups to create their campaign. Encourage creativity and ensure that the information is accurate and culturally sensitive.
- **Guidance:** Provide guidance and feedback as students develop their projects, ensuring that they stay focused on the key objectives and the scenario provided.

5. Presentation and Peer Review (Optional, 20-30 minutes):

- **Instructions:** If time allows, students can present their campaigns to the class. Each presentation should cover the target population, health concern, outreach plan, and how their campaign aims to improve community health.
- **Peer Review:** After presentations, encourage peer feedback on the effectiveness, creativity, and clarity of the campaigns. Discuss any potential challenges and how they could be addressed.

6. Conclusion and Reflection (10 minutes):

- **Summary:** Summarize the key takeaways from the project, emphasizing the importance of dental health education and community outreach in improving overall health.
- **Reflection:** Ask students to reflect on what they learned about the role of a dentist in community health and how they might apply this knowledge in their future careers or daily lives. They can write a short reflection or discuss their thoughts in small groups.

Sample Project Checklist:

- **Target Population:** Clearly defined and relevant to the scenario.
- **Health Concern:** Specific and well-explained, with a focus on the community's needs.

- **Campaign Format:** Visually appealing, informative, and appropriate for the target audience.
- **Outreach Plan:** Practical and culturally sensitive, with strategies to build trust and encourage engagement.
- **Connection to Overall Health:** Clearly articulated and supported by evidence.

[Sample for Project](#)

[Doc to make copies for Project](#)