

Writing Workshop Lesson Plan: “Invocation”

**This lesson plan is designed for a group of participants who are all Black girls.*

1. Questionnaire

Provide a hard copy of the questionnaire on page 2 for all participants. Ask participants to fill out the questionnaire. Remind them that the questionnaires will not be collected, so their responses are completely confidential.

2. Discussion, Part One

Round I. Circle formation. One-word check in with participants: *How are you feeling today, in one word?*

Round II. Brainstorm with participants: “How would you define what it means to be a Black girl?” (Make a chart)

Round III. Students respond in circle: “What are some things that only Black girls know?” (If no one responds, suggest *how to detangle hair, the differences between different braid styles, how it feels to get a relaxer, what to buy at the beauty supply, etc*)

3. Discussion, Part Two: Watch/Read “Invocation” by Ariana Brown

[Click here to watch “Invocation.”](#)

Provide a hard copy of the poem text for each participant. (The poem text is available in English and Spanish for download in the Teacher Poems PDF at <http://www.arianabrown.com/resources.html> for \$1 USD.)

Discussion Questions

- What is the poem about?
- What does Ariana Brown say about her hair?
- Why do you think Brown wanted to write this poem?
- Is there anything else that stands out to you about this poem?

4. Writing Prompt/Reflection

Write a poem or short story about your journey with your hair. What emotions have you associated with your hair in the past? What emotions do you associate with your hair now? Does the way other people view your hair influence how you feel about your hair? What do you love about your hair? Use your questionnaire answers as inspiration for your work.

“Invocation” Questionnaire

1. Make a list of the most beautiful things in nature you can think of. Be as descriptive as you can.
2. What do people assume about you because of your hair?
3. Can you think of a painful experience you have had because of your hair?
4. Can you think of a beautiful, happy, or important experience you have had, related to your hair?
5. Describe your hair. What is its texture? How does it behave? What happens when it gets wet?
6. How do the women in your family or community wear their hair? What do you think of their hairstyles?
7. Who taught you to do your hair? Did you teach yourself? How did you learn?
8. If you ever have a daughter, what will you teach her about her hair?