

## Lesson Plan #4:

### What are your artistic talents?

Creatively share your in-depth research of one American Who Tells the Truth.

### Reading Assignment:

#### Robert Shetterly's Blog: To Stand Up a Stone

<https://www.americanswhotellthetruth.org/blog/to-stand-up-a-stone>

### Essential Question:

What value do "standing stones" bring to our communities/our world?

### Lesson Description:

Choose one AWTT portrait subject and learn about the subject's issue, actions, challenges, moments of inspiration, and accomplishments. After studying this person in more depth, make a creative presentation that provides an energetic and deeper understanding of the AWTT portrait subject. Use the creative arts to expand understanding and highlight the Truth Teller's story.

### Activity:

1. Select the Shetterly Truth Teller you would like to research.
2. Read the selection about your Truth Teller on [www.americanswhotellthetruth.org](http://www.americanswhotellthetruth.org)
3. Find two other resources about your Truth Teller and read them. This may include books written, plays or songs performed, or articles published.

Resource #1:

Resource #2:

4. Write about your Truth Teller thinking about the following guidelines.\*

- Tell a story.

- √ Ground it in the events of your Truth Teller's life.

- √ Make it real.

- √ Talk about moments when your Truth Teller was tested or challenged.

- √ Tell things you know about this person that are not common knowledge.

- Be personal and brief.
  - √ Be specific.
  - √ Name the belief or cause that is central to your Truth Teller's life.
  - √ Write in words or phrases that are comfortable for you to speak.
  
- Some examples:
  - √ Don't say "bus". Say "run down city bus with doors that don't close".
  - √ Don't tell, but show. Don't tell **about** anger or truth or justice,; show what made your Truth Teller angry or what act was unjust. Skip the "This is a story about truth." line and move right into the "truth".

#### 5. Some possible formats for your writing

- A story – pick one incident or critical moment. Tell it as a first person story.
- A letter – written by your Truth Teller or to your Truth Teller from you or someone in your Truth Teller's life
- A rap – add movement or beatboxing
- Slam poetry – think spoken word, powerful emotion, smiles, tears.

#### 6. Important concepts to consider

- What do you admire about this person?
- What does this person make you feel?
- What would you like to say to this person if you could have a conversation with him/her?
- What one story might tell the essence of this person?

\*Based on *This I Believe* in association with National Public Radio and *Bird by Bird* by Anne Lamott.

#### **Discussion/Suggested Lesson Expansion:**

Share writings, poems, stories, and raps with the class or with the school or community. Discuss how these stories allow access to a better understanding of a person.