



Lesson Plan

There Is a Reason for Your Season

Created: 12/2021 by the National FFA Organization

Description of Lesson: *Life has many challenging and joyous moments. In many challenging instances, we wish we could fast-forward to the next moment. But what can be learned from these moments? In the retiring address of 2020-21 National FFA Secretary Anna Mathis, we will learn that there is a reason for each season.*

Student Learning Objectives:

After completing these activities, students will ...

1. Describe the word "season."
2. Journal about a current "season" or challenge they are experiencing.

Suggested Grade Level:

Grades 9 and 10 (This lesson is written so instructors can scale up or down based on class needs.)

Suggested Time: 45 minutes (*Time requirements may vary based upon student understanding and class schedule.)

Resources/References:

1. Video: "Anna Mathis Retiring Address," <https://vimeo.com/640329383>

Related Resources:

1. Retiring Addresses and Keynote Speeches, [FFA.org/ffa-video-center/convention-keynotes-and-retiring-addresses/](https://ffa.org/ffa-video-center/convention-keynotes-and-retiring-addresses/).

Equipment and Supplies Needed:

1. A copy of the "There Is a Reason for Your Season" worksheet for each student
2. Internet access to play the video in real time or embed it in a PowerPoint ahead of time

Vocabulary:

1. Embrace
2. Encourage
3. Season

Cross-Curricular Connections:

English/Language Arts

Journal about a current "season" or challenge they are experiencing.

Virtual Instruction Ideas:

Have students download and watch the video on a device of their choice and complete the worksheet.

Student Activity Sheets:

Direct access to student activity sheets without lesson plan or answer key for easy upload to a learning management system or printing for classwork.

<https://ffa.box.com/s/is7r1rmpyzvrf0afucjn31bwvzb0f5w> (Word)

<https://ffa.box.com/s/ohx038say4y0oc5uq10971wj5tmfov48> (Non-Designed)

<https://ffa.box.com/s/sx9r3xvr12c3qvbeoe7reseumykmnyo0> (PDF)

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZE37dXbLRIYXskaDkkrVf3kE6qJfdltAVNMzWVrhchc/copy> (Google)

These Activities are Aligned to the Following Standards:

FFA Precept

- FFA.PL-A.Action: Assume responsibility and take the necessary steps to achieve the desired results, no matter what the goal or task at hand.
- FFA.PL-C.Vision: Visualize the future and how to get there.
- FFA.PL-E.Awareness: Understand personal vision, mission and goals.
- FFA.PG-J.Mental Growth: Embrace cognitive and intellectual development relative to reasoning, thinking and coping.
- FFA.CS-N.Decision Making: Analyze a situation and execute an appropriate course of action.

Common Core – Writing

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.9-10.4: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

AFNR Career Ready Practices

- CRP.02: Apply appropriate academic and technical skills. Career-ready individuals readily access and use the knowledge and skills acquired through experience and education to be more productive.
- CRP.04: Communicate clearly, effectively, and with reason. Career-ready individuals communicate thoughts, ideas and action plans with clarity, whether using written, verbal and/or visual methods.
- CRP.06: Demonstrate creativity and innovation. Career-ready individuals regularly think of ideas that solve problems in new and different ways, and they contribute those ideas in a useful and productive manner to improve their organization.
- CRP.08: Utilize critical thinking to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them. Career-ready individuals readily recognize problems in the workplace, understand the nature of the problem, and devise effective plans to solve the problem.

Partnership for 21st Century Skills

- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Flexibility and Adaptability
- Initiative and Self-Direction
- Leadership and Responsibility

Lesson Plan:

1. **Bell Ringer:** What is something in your life you are currently going through and would like to fast-forward through? Why?
2. **Introduction:** Hand out the worksheet "There Is a Reason for Your Season" to each student. *In life, when things are not going as we planned, we always want to fast-forward. But what if that part of our life is exactly where we need to be? Today, we are going to watch a retiring address from the 94th National FFA Convention & Expo. This retiring address was given by 2020-21 National FFA Secretary Anna Mathis. In her speech, we learn how there is a reason for the season that we are currently experiencing.*

Before watching the video, look over the questions on the "There Is a Reason for Your Season" worksheet, and be ready for the answers as you view the video.

3. **Activity:**
 - a. **Part 1:** Each student needs a copy of the worksheet "There Is a Reason for Your Season." Have students watch the retiring address of 2020-21 National FFA Secretary Anna Mathis. The video is available at <https://vimeo.com/640329383>. While students view the video, have them complete the questions.
 - b. **Part 2:** Have students go for a walk outside (if the weather does not permit a walk outside, find a place to walk inside the school). While walking around, have students find a quiet place to sit without their classmates. Students should reflect on what is going on in their lives. What is their season, or challenge, they are currently facing? Using the space below, students will journal about their current season. Students should think through and reflect on the following: (1) Describe your "season" or challenge, (2) Why are you trying to fast-forward through this "season" or challenge? (3) What can you do right now to help you through this season or challenge? and (4) What can you learn from this season of challenge?
4. **Follow-up:** If a student is willing, have them read what they wrote in Part 2.
5. **Exit Ticket:** What did the journaling activity help you to do? Why?

Name: _____

There Is a Reason for Your Season

Part 1

Directions:

Complete the following activities while watching “There Is a Reason for Your Season,” the retiring address of 2020-21 National FFA Secretary Anna Mathis. The video is available at <https://vimeo.com/640329383>.

Aligned to the following standards:

FFA.PL-A; FFA.PL-C; FFA.PL-E; FFA.PG-J; FFA.CS-N; CCSS.ELA.W.9-10.4; CRP.02; CRP.04; CRP.06; CRP.08



What year was Anna's first time at convention in the blue jacket?

- a. 2014
- b. 2016
- c. 2018
- d. 2020

What does the word “season” mean in Anna's speech?



“When we embrace our season, we are able to embrace and soak up experiences we will need one day.”

— Anna Mathis, 2020-21 National FFA Secretary

What does this quote from Anna mean?



What are you trying to fast-forward through right now? Why?



“No matter what season we are in, we can encourage someone else while they are in theirs.”

— Anna Mathis, 2020-21 National FFA Secretary

Who can you encourage right now? What can you do?

Name: _____

Part 2

Directions:

Go for a walk outside (if the weather does not permit a walk outside, find a teacher-approved place to walk). While walking around, find a quiet place to sit without your classmates. Reflect on what is going on in your life. What is your season, or challenge, you are currently facing? Using the space below, journal about your current season. Be sure to think through and reflect on the following: (1) Describe your "season" or challenge, (2) Why are you trying to fast-forward through this "season" or challenge? (3) What can you do right now to help you through this season or challenge? and (4) What can you learn from this season of challenge?



Name: _____

KEY: There Is a Reason for Your Season

Part 1

Directions:

Complete the following activities while watching "There Is a Reason for Your Season," the retiring address of 2020-21 National FFA Secretary Anna Mathis. The video is available at <https://vimeo.com/640329383>.



What year was Anna's first time at convention in the blue jacket?

- a. 2014
- b. 2016
- c. 2018
- d. 2020

What does the word "season" mean in Anna's speech? **A challenge or experience in your life**



"When we embrace our season, we are able to embrace and soak up experiences we will need one day."
— Anna Mathis, 2020-21 National FFA Secretary

What does this quote from Anna mean? **Answers will vary.**



What are you trying to fast-forward through right now? Why?
Answers will vary.



"No matter what season we are in, we can encourage someone else while they are in theirs."
— Anna Mathis, 2020-21 National FFA Secretary

Who can you encourage right now? What can you do?
Answers will vary.

Name: _____

Part 2

Directions:

Go for a walk outside (if the weather does not permit a walk outside, find a teacher-approved place to walk). While walking around, find a quiet place to sit without your classmates. Reflect on what is going on in your life. What is your season, or challenge, you are currently facing? Using the space below, journal about your current season. Be sure to think through and reflect on the following: (1) Describe your “season” or challenge, (2) Why are you trying to fast-forward through this “season” or challenge? (3) What can you do right now to help you through this season or challenge? and (4) What can you learn from this season of challenge? **Answers will vary.**

