



Lesson Plan

Never Give Up, Dawg

Created: 02/2024 by the National FFA Organization

Description of Lesson: In life, we all face different battles. The important thing isn't the battles we face; it's how we choose to fight them. In her retiring address, 2022-23 National FFA Eastern Region Vice President Gracie Murphy shares stories of battling gracefully.

Student Learning Objectives:

After completing these activities, students will ...

1. List the characteristics of being a "fighter."
2. Describe how they overcome their battles.
3. Understand the importance of never giving up.

Suggested Grade Level:

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

Suggested Time: 60 minutes (*Time requirements may vary based upon student understanding and class schedule.)

Resources/References:

1. Video: "Never Give Up, Dawg" | Gracie Murphy 2023 Retiring Address, <https://vimeo.com/883700590>

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 "Never Give Up, Dawg" 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. Authenticity
2. Courage
3. Goofiness
4. Grace
5. Honesty
6. Humor
7. Integrity
8. Intelligence
9. Kindness
10. Love
11. Passion
12. Perseverance
13. Respect
14. Strength

Cross-Curricular Connections:

English/Language Arts
Identify and define vocabulary words.

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.

Word: <https://ffa.box.com/s/bhpr96pbqu4lu3u4zx7x35fiapxl7oh8>

PDF: <https://ffa.box.com/s/lwycrei23kdo3ne91mv5kdxizuij686k>

Google Docs: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZChFmFMuBniJwi814qWBAbMYIUQe6vfamhTypvfqme4/copy>

Undesigned: <https://ffa.box.com/s/pe84fibytklo3izpbrqv75jpbzla2pi62>

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-D.Character: Conduct oneself appropriately in relation to others regardless of the situation.
- FFA.PL-F.Continuous Improvement: Accept responsibility for learning and personal growth.
- FFA.PG-H.Social Growth: Successfully interact with others and adapt to various social situations.
- FFA.PG-K.Emotional Growth: Share and express healthy feelings and emotions.

Common Core – Speaking and Listening

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.1 Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grades 9-10 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

Common Core – Language

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.9-10.6 Acquire and use accurately general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.

AFNR Career Ready Practices

- 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.09. Model integrity, ethical leadership and effective management. Career-ready individuals readily recognize problems in the workplace, understand the nature of the problem, and devise effective plans to solve the problem.
- CRP.12. Work productively in teams while using cultural/global competence. Career-ready individuals positively contribute to every team, whether formal or informal.

Partnership for 21st Century Skills

- Collaboration
- Communication
- Initiative and Self-direction
- Leadership and Responsibility
- Think Creatively

Lesson Plan:

1. **Bell Ringer:** When you are faced with challenges in your life, how do you overcome them?
2. **Introduction:** Give a copy of the “Never Give Up, Dawg” worksheet to each student. *Today, we are going to watch a retiring address from the 96th National FFA Convention & Expo. This retiring address was given by 2022-23 National FFA Eastern Region Vice President Gracie Murphy. In her speech, we will learn how to fight our battles and never give up. As we are watching the video, look over the questions on the worksheet “Never Give Up, Dawg” and be ready for the answers.*
3. **Activity:** Each student needs a copy of the worksheet “Never Give Up, Dawg.”
 - a. **Part 1:** Have students watch the retiring address of 2022-23 National FFA Eastern Region Vice President Gracie Murphy. The video is available at <https://vimeo.com/883700590>. While students watch the video, have them complete the questions.
 - b. **Part 2:** After completing Part 1, have students complete the word search. The words reflect how students mentioned in the retiring address fight their battles. After completion of the word search, there are three reflection questions.
4. **Follow-up:** Have students share with a partner or small group their answers to how they fight their own battles.
5. **Exit Ticket:** Choose three of the vocabulary words from today's activity and define them in your own words. As a reminder, these are the words: authenticity, courage, goofiness, grace, honesty, humor, integrity, intelligence, kindness, love, passion, perseverance, respect, strength, vulnerability.



Lesson Plan

Never Give Up, Dawg



Part 1

Directions:

Answer the following questions while watching the retiring address of 2022-23 National FFA Eastern Region Vice President Gracie Murphy, "Never Give Up, Dawg." The video is available at <https://vimeo.com/883700590>.



1. What breed of dog did Gracie walk out on stage with?
2. Why does Gracie love dogs so much?
3. What was a hard pill to swallow for Louise?
4. What was the name of Victoria's steer?
5. At Camp Oswegatchie in New York, Gracie shares that other officers and members convinced her to do things she has never done before. List two.
 - a.
 - b.
6. What valuable lesson did Tristan teach Gracie?
7. What did Louise, Victoria and Tristan have in common?
8. Who is Louise?
9. Gracie kept a journal of people who impacted her. List three names and how she described them as fighters.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
10. As Gracie's retiring address comes to an end, she leaves us with what?



Name: _____

Never Give Up, Dawg



Part 2

Directions:

In Gracie's retiring address, she shares the stories of many fighters and how they fight their battles. Use the word bank to locate the words within the word search and then answer the questions that follow.

Authenticity, Courage, Goofiness, Grace, Honesty, Humor, Integrity, Intelligence, Kindness, Love, Passion, Perseverance, Respect, Strength, Vulnerability

g	p	d	t	v	a	r	g	r	s	i	e	r	t	a	s	h	u	m	o	l	i	h	g	s
o	s	c	o	h	t	u	h	a	s	n	n	i	k	h	t	n	i	l	o	r	n	g	t	h
o	d	l	o	v	e	p	w	s	r	t	b	v	a	o	e	g	t	i	y	r	o	m	u	h
h	c	f	e	u	n	a	t	p	s	e	p	a	g	n	e	r	o	n	a	n	x	f	r	y
e	m	o	n	i	r	q	r	e	o	l	s	t	r	e	n	g	t	h	w	e	i	n	d	t
i	n	t	a	w	d	a	q	c	f	l	x	k	h	s	a	p	a	s	s	i	o	n	v	i
a	e	t	u	e	s	i	g	d	n	i	w	u	c	t	a	s	t	s	r	n	g	t	h	c
i	r	k	t	h	t	u	a	e	n	g	i	f	o	y	g	g	c	e	p	t	s	e	r	i
c	e	a	h	u	m	a	r	i	a	e	s	k	c	o	r	u	f	n	l	e	u	v	n	t
p	s	t	a	i	s	g	h	o	m	n	g	t	h	g	a	r	t	i	o	g	e	c	p	n
i	p	e	o	a	w	v	y	k	d	c	i	g	e	n	c	e	r	f	p	r	d	o	v	e
g	e	d	w	p	e	r	s	e	v	e	r	a	n	c	e	a	d	o	m	i	e	u	g	h
a	c	f	g	w	s	s	e	n	d	n	i	k	i	n	e	f	i	o	l	t	c	w	r	t
p	t	p	e	r	s	a	u	t	s	t	r	e	a	v	u	l	o	g	w	y	f	d	e	u
c	k	i	n	p	e	d	a	u	o	y	t	i	l	i	b	a	r	e	n	l	u	v	p	a

1. Share one battle that you face.
2. How do you fight your battles?
3. Why is it important to fight?

Name: _____

Aligned to the following standards:

FFA.PL-A; FFA.PL-D; FFA.PL-F; FFA.PG-H; FFA.PG-K; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.1;
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.9-10.6; CRP.04; CRP.09; CRP.12.

KEY: Never Give Up, Dawg

Part 1

Directions:

Answer the following questions while watching the retiring address of 2022-23 National FFA Eastern Region Vice President Gracie Murphy, "Never Give Up, Dawg." The video is available at <https://vimeo.com/883700590>.

1. What breed of dog did Gracie walk out on stage with?

Dalmatian

2. Why does Gracie love dogs so much?

They will love you unconditionally, and they fight with all of their heart.

3. What was a hard pill to swallow for Louise?

"She needed to start sticking up for herself."

4. What was the name of Victoria's steer?

Bo/Beau

5. At Camp Oswegatchie in New York, Gracie shares that other officers and members convinced her to do things she has never done before. List two.

- Answers may vary but should include
- the big swing, trying maple milk, dipping her wings in blue cheese and jumping into the lake.

6. What valuable lesson did Tristan teach Gracie?

The importance of showing up just as you are

7. What did Louise, Victoria and Tristan have in common?

They fought their battles; they're fighters.

8. Who is Louise?

Gracie Murphy

9. Gracie kept a journal of people who impacted her. List three names and how she described them as fighters.

- Answers will vary.

10. As Gracie's retiring address comes to an end, she leaves us with what?

Keep it real, fight with all your heart, and never give up.

Name: _____

Part 2

Directions:

In Gracie's retiring address, she shares the stories of many fighters and how they fight their battles. Use the word bank to locate the words within the word search and then answer the questions that follow.

Authenticity, Courage, Goofiness, Grace, Honesty, Humor, Integrity, Intelligence, Kindness, Love, Passion, Perseverance, Respect, Strength, Vulnerability

g	p	d	t	v	a	r	g	r	s	i	e	r	t	a	s	h	u	m	o	l	i	h	g	s
o	s	c	o	h	t	u	h	a	s	n	n	i	k	h	t	n	i	l	o	r	n	g	t	h
o	d	l	o	v	e	p	w	s	r	t	b	v	a	o	e	g	t	i	y	r	o	m	u	h
h	c	f	e	u	n	a	t	p	s	e	p	a	g	n	e	r	o	n	a	n	x	f	r	y
e	m	o	n	i	r	q	r	e	o	l	s	t	r	e	n	g	t	h	w	e	i	n	d	t
i	n	t	a	w	d	a	q	c	f	l	x	k	h	s	a	p	a	s	s	i	o	n	v	i
a	e	t	u	e	s	i	g	d	n	i	w	u	c	t	a	s	t	s	r	n	g	t	h	c
i	r	k	t	h	t	u	a	e	n	g	i	f	o	y	g	g	c	e	p	t	s	e	r	i
c	e	a	h	u	m	a	r	i	a	e	s	k	c	o	r	u	f	n	l	e	u	v	n	t
p	s	t	a	i	s	g	h	o	m	n	g	t	h	g	a	r	t	i	o	g	e	c	p	n
i	p	e	o	a	w	v	y	k	d	c	i	g	e	n	c	e	r	f	p	r	d	o	v	e
g	e	d	w	p	e	r	s	e	v	e	r	a	n	c	e	a	d	o	m	i	e	u	g	h
a	c	f	g	w	s	s	e	n	d	n	i	k	i	n	e	f	i	o	l	t	c	w	r	t
p	t	p	e	r	s	a	u	t	s	t	r	e	a	v	u	l	o	g	w	y	f	d	e	u
c	k	i	n	p	e	d	a	u	o	y	t	i	l	i	b	a	r	e	n	l	u	v	p	a

1. Share one battle that you face.

Answers will vary.

2. How do you fight your battles?

Answers will vary.

3. Why is it important to fight?

Answers will vary.