



Lesson Plan

Gray Space

Created: 02/2020 by the National FFA Organization

Retiring Address Video Summary: In this retiring address, 2018-19 National FFA Secretary Layni LeBlanc shares how we need to continue asking questions and enter into the “gray space” to grow and learn.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

After completing these activities, students will ...

1. Describe why it is important to continue to ask questions.
2. Evaluate why it is important to think for themselves and not just follow what everyone else is doing.

TIME REQUIRED: 45 minutes

RESOURCES:

1. Video: “The Gray Area | Layni LeBlanc Retiring Address,” <https://vimeo.com/370524943>

EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES NEEDED:

1. A copy of the “Gray Space” worksheet for each student
2. Internet access to play the video in real time or embed it in a PowerPoint ahead of time

STUDENT ACTIVITY SHEETS:

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

<https://ffa.box.com/s/tcdj01ay9rit4jr3etcep6pk0wv0cxjy> (Word)

<https://ffa.box.com/s/wlebum6i99bmdbnegygff4hr3t3if2vq> (Non-Designed)

<https://ffa.box.com/s/c7c7nid07zpte3bq6xyt9du3yn8uke9a> (PDF)

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 – Math Practices

- CCSS.MP1: Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
- CCSS.MP5: Use appropriate tools strategically.
- CCSS.MP6: Attend to precision.

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:* Why is it important to always ask questions?
2. *Introduction:* *Always asking questions is an essential skill that everybody needs to ensure clarity, understanding and curiosity. Today, we are going to watch a retiring address from the 92nd National FFA Convention & Expo. This retiring address was given by 2018-19 National FFA Secretary Layni LeBlanc. In her speech, we learn how we need to continue asking questions and enter into the "gray space" to grow and learn.*

Before watching the video, look over the questions on the "Gray Space" worksheet, and be ready to listen for the answers as you view the video.
3. *Activity:* Each student needs a copy of the worksheet "Gray Space." Students will then watch the retiring address of 2018-19 National FFA Secretary Layni LeBlanc and complete the activities. The video "The Gray Area | Layni LeBlanc Retiring Address" is available at <https://vimeo.com/370524943>.
4. *Follow-up:* Have student share the questions that they need to ask today, this month and this year. Continue by discussing why these questions are important.
5. *Leveling Up:* Develop 10 to 20 questions to form a "bank" of questions that you could use in any situation you may encounter.
6. *Exit Ticket:* Why is it important to always ask questions and continue to travel into the "gray area"?

NAME: _____

Aligned to the following standards:
FFA.PL-A; FFA.PL-C; FFA.PL-E; FFA.PG-J; FFA.CS-N; MP1;
MP5; MP6; CRP.02; CRP.04; CRP.06; CRP.08

Gray Space

DIRECTIONS:

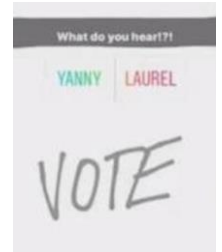
Fill in the blanks and answer the questions below while watching "The Gray Area," the retiring address of 2018-19 National FFA Secretary Layni LeBlanc. The video is available at <https://vimeo.com/370524943>.

Look at the picture in the video, and circle the color you see.
Blue and Black or White and Gold

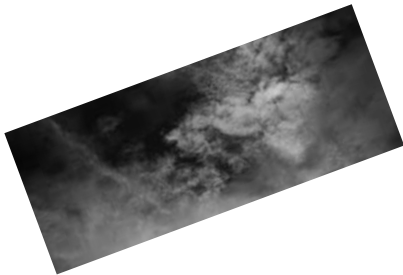


While listening to the video, circle what word you hear.

Yanny or Laurel



Why do people see things differently?



Perceiving is _____ more _____ about what you
simply _____.

According to Layni, what is the "gray area"?

- a. A part of the brain
- b. The deep, vast unknown
- c. The space between right and wrong

Be curious enough to ask _____.

- a. questions
- b. for the rules
- c. the color

What is a lemming?

- a. A small cat
- b. A small bird
- c. A small rodent
- d. A small reptile

Which of the following would NOT be considered "lemming" behavior?

- a. Running for class office because all your friends are
- b. Going to see a scary movie with your friends even though you do not like scary movies
- c. You decide to play soccer even though all your friends are playing football.

Identify two specific times you exhibited "lemming" behavior. Why did you exhibit this behavior?

- 1.
- 2.

What group did Layni start?

- a. Humans of FFA
- b. People of Louisiana
- c. Humans of New York
- d. Humans of Agriculture



Why would Layni want to start this type of a group?

What does living in the "gray area" mean?

We will _____ run out of _____ to ask.

What are two questions that you can and need to ask *today*?

What are two questions that you can and need to ask this *month*?

What are two questions that you can and need to ask this *year*?



Summarize Layni's RA in one sentence.

What does Layni's RA mean to you?

KEY: Gray Space

DIRECTIONS:

Fill in the blanks and answer the questions below while watching "The Gray Area," the retiring address of 2018-19 National FFA Secretary Layni LeBlanc. The video is available at <https://vimeo.com/370524943>.

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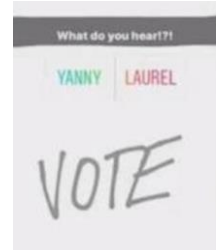
Answers will vary.



While listening to the video, circle what word you hear.

Answers will vary.

Yanny or Laurel



Why do people see things differently?
Everybody comes from different backgrounds
and has different experiences. Some answers
may vary from this.

Perceiving is thinking more deeply about what you simply see.

According to Layni, what is the "gray area"?

- a. A part of the brain
- ☒ b. The deep, vast unknown
- c. The space between right and wrong

Be curious enough to ask _____.

- ☒ a. questions
- b. for the rules
- c. the color

What is a lemming?

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Which of the following would NOT be considered "lemming" behavior?

- a. Running for class office because all your friends are
- b. Going to see a scary movie with your friends even though you do not like scary movies
- ☒ c. You decide to play soccer even though all of your friends are playing football.

Identify two specific times you exhibited "lemming" behavior. Why did you exhibit this behavior? Answers will vary.

- 1.
- 2.

What group did Layni start?

- a. Humans of FFA
- b. People of Louisiana
- c. Humans of New York
- ☒ d. Humans of Agriculture



Why would Layni want to start this type of a group? To increase the sharing of the agriculture story across social media

What does living in the "gray area" mean? Thinking without dimensions

We will never run out of questions to ask.

What are two questions that you can and need to ask *today*?

Answers will vary.

What are two questions that you can and need to ask this *month*?

Answers will vary.

What are two questions that you can and need to ask this *year*?

Answers will vary.

Summarize Layni's RA in one sentence.

Answers will vary.

What does Layni's RA mean to you?

Answers will vary.