

WV TREE Resource: English Language Arts

Resource Name: Mark Twain's "The Lowest Animal"

Grade Level(s): 5th Grade 6th Grade 7th Grade 8th Grade 9th Grade
 10th Grade 11th Grade 12th Grade

Resource Summary/Overview: This resource uses Twain's "The Lowest Animal" to discuss scientific method and research practices. Students must deduce if Twain's satire is truthful through research and writing.

Length: 3 45 minute class periods.

Domain(s) Addressed: Reading Writing Speaking/Listening Language

West Virginia College- and Career-Readiness Standards:

ELA.11.9 Analyze a case in which grasping a point of view requires distinguishing what is directly stated in a literary text from what is really meant (e.g., satire, sarcasm, irony, or understatement).

ELA. 11.26 Conduct short, as well as more sustained, research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

Delivery Method(s): Direct Instruction Whole Group Pairs
 Small Group Computer-based Individual
 Other (explain): [Click here to enter text.](#)

Resource Materials: Text(s) Handouts Media Rubric
 Other (explain): [Click here to enter text.](#)

Resource Purpose(s): Engage/Activate Introduce Topic/Skill Review Topic/Skill
 Formative Assessment Summative Assessment
 Reinforce Skill Enrichment Intervention/Support
 Other (explain): [Click here to enter text.](#)

Instructor Notes: In Mark Twain's "The Lowest Animal" Twain satirically argues that man is the lowest of all animals due to its cruelty. The instructor will lead students through the text to help them understand the satire present and then students will have to prove or disprove Twain's hypothesis using their own research.