

# Create a Wordle - Gratitude

## EXPLANATION:

Expressing gratitude benefits the giver and receiver! In this activity the class express their gratitude for people, events and their surroundings. Using the Wordle tool to create a visual word cloud will be an innovative way to share appreciation.

**YEAR LEVELS:** Years 11 – 12

**STUDENT GROUPING:** Whole group discussion and model – plus individual creations

**ACTIVITY LENGTH:** 40 – 60 mins

## LINK TO CURRICULUM:

### Senior Secondary Curriculum: English

In Unit 3, students explore representations of themes, ideas and concepts through a comparison of texts. They analyse and compare the relationships between language, genre and context, comparing texts within and/or across different genres and modes. Students recognise and analyse the conventions of genre in literary and non-literary texts and consider how those conventions may assist interpretation and how they may be challenged. Students compare and evaluate the effect of different mediums on the structure of texts and how audiences respond to them. Understanding of these concepts is demonstrated through the creation of imaginative, interpretive and analytical responses.

By the end of this unit, students: understand relationships between texts, genres and contexts investigate the effects of different conventions and mediums on responses create, transform and adapt oral, written and multimodal texts in a range of mediums and styles.

### Link to General Capabilities in the English curriculum:

#### *Information and Communication Technology (ICT) capability:*

There is a particular focus in English on ICT through the use of digital texts and on understanding and creating multimodal texts. For example, students explore the effects of sound and image as they consider how ideas are communicated in digital texts. They use digital technologies when they access, manage and use information and when creating their own texts. They develop skills in reading, viewing and responding to digital and multimodal texts and analysing the effects of the use of different mediums on meaning and interpretation.

## SCOPE OF TASK

Gratitude is a multi-layered, complex concept with multiple definitions. Gratitude incorporates the general state of thankfulness and/or appreciation, and the recognition and appreciation of an altruistic gift. There is a wealth of evidence that reflects on the benefits people derive from expressing appreciation, thanks and gratitude.

Incorporating Wordle into your classroom lessons is quick and easy! This online resource can be used in all curricular areas and is great for promoting critical thinking skills and exploring gratitude.

1. As a whole group, explore definitions of gratitude and appreciation. Ask students to search the web and come up with agreed meanings. These can be written on a whiteboard for later referral.
2. Question the students as to why gratitude is important to both the giver and the receiver – is there any research on the benefits of gratitude? Examples of benefits can be found on the internet and students can research.
3. Question the students about Wordle. Has anyone used the Wordle tool before and can they model how it works? If not investigate the web-based tool with the students.
4. Let the students know that the goal of the lesson is to explore gratitude and use the Wordle tool to visually represent their appreciation. This video provides details on how to use the Wordle tool:



5. Work together as a whole group to trial the Wordle tool.
  - Choose something that everyone is grateful for and create a list of adjectives that describe what is appreciated – ask a student to scribe the list.
  - Remember a word can be recorded more than once as this contributes to the final visual.
  - Copy and paste all the words into the Wordle and create!
  - Review the visual image and discuss what words are obvious.



6. After the students have trialled the tool and have experienced using a range of words that express gratitude and appreciation ask individuals to make their own Wordle. Task includes:
  - Choosing something that you appreciate (e.g. a person, an act, a part of nature or an event)
  - Reflecting on why you are grateful and writing a list of words that express the gratitude
  - Create a gratitude Wordle – play with the display to make it reflect your feelings and gratitude – making words more prominent
  - You can give value to certain words so that they appear larger on the Wordle
7. At the end of the lesson ask the students to reflect on their experiences of expressing gratitude:
  - How did they feel writing the list?
  - Did they recall memories?
  - If they created a Wordle about a person – how do they think the person would feel if they gave them the Wordle?

There is a lot to be thankful for! The process of taking a moment to make an intentional reflection of what one is grateful for, then creating a Wordle about it, is powerful for the giver and receiver!

## RESOURCES

WORDLE web tool: <http://www.edwordle.net/>