

Going for Gold

Olympians Lesson 4 | Suggested Grades: 4-7

Lesson Plan

Objectives:

Students will....

- view Lori's historic win in the lab and listen to her personal interview
- reflect on the media's perception of Lori's win
- generate questions and write news articles to describe Lori's historic win in a positive light

Curricula Links:

- Physical Education
- Writing
- Personal Planning

Materials:

- Pencil or pencil crayon
- Blank and Lined Paper
- Overhead of appendix 3.2

The Big Idea

Lori had a dream of winning Gold at the 1984 Olympic Games and she achieved this dream due to her constant pursuit of excellence, consistent effort and most importantly her "positive attitude". Students will learn how her example can inspire them to have a winning attitude in life.

Opening Motivator: The 5 Ws of Lori Fung (10 min)

1. This lesson begins in the lab – inform students to click on the icon "Going for the Gold" Students will watch Lori Fung's Olympic Gold Win at the 1984 games, view her personal photo gallery, and listen to her interview about her Olympic experience.
2. While exploring in the lab, using a 5W web, have students record relevant facts.

Classroom Activity: Writing News Articles on Lori Fung (60 min)

1) Once students have returned from the lab, discuss with your students what made this win unique. The following questions will assist you in guiding the discussion:

- What was historic about Lori's win?
- What was the main inner quality that Lori feels helped her succeed?
- How specifically did the application of this inner quality help her succeed?

2) Despite having won the first-ever Olympic gold in her sport, some reporters did not consider her achievement to be as significant as those of other Gold-medal winning athletes. Instead, the media focused on the fact that rhythmic gymnastics was not a mainstream event. Further, since many nations had boycotted the 1984 Olympics; several of the world's best athletes in this event were not present. However, instead of allowing the media pressure to affect her, Lori persevered and stayed positive through the entire experience. She is proud of her Olympic win. She represented our country with grace and didn't let the negative media coverage detract from her accomplishment.

3) You are a writer at the 1984 Summer games reporting at the gymnastic events. You have just finished watching Lori Fung complete her rhythmic gymnastic routine and you have an exciting feeling that this could mean Olympic Gold for Canada. You quickly prepare for the interview with Lori, which will provide the foundation for your news article for the people back home in Canada.

4) To start the writing process, as a class, have the students provide answers to the 5 W's (who, what, where, when, and why)

5) Using the think, pair, share strategy, ask students to generate a list of 5 facts about Lori's Olympic experience they learned from the "in the lab" component of this lesson. Once students have had a chance to work independently, ask them share their facts with one other student.

6) Then inform students that they are to write a 100 word article focusing on how having a positive attitude helped Lori win Gold and defeat her critics.

Teaching Tip

It may be helpful to review the writing style of a journalist and the components of a sports article found in a newspaper.

Conclusion and Reflections (10 min)

When athletes participate in a ground breaking sport, there will always be critics. In Lori Fung's case, some people questioned the significance of her win at the 1984 Summer Olympic Games. Having a "positive attitude" helped her rise above the negativism and rightfully enjoy her great achievement.

Discuss with your students how having a positive attitude can help them be more successful in their life's pursuits. It may be helpful to provide your students with personal examples.

Then ask students to personally respond to the following in their writing journals: What can you learn from Lori's story? What is the life lesson?

In the Lab: Length (40 min)

Students will view footage from Eugene's exciting career and listen to a live motivational message from this athlete. You can choose to have the students view this before or after the Classroom activity for this lesson.

Web Links

www.gymnastics.bc.ca

BC Gymnastics