A Lesson Plan Using *Impersonations*

**Objective:**
I will have the students learn about famous African Americans during ‘African American History Month’.

**Lesson Plan:**
I will divide the class into groups and assign each group a famous African American person who changed the U.S. history significantly. Each group will research that person and write a script describing the person’s background and the important things they did to have such a great impact on the history of the United States. Each group will then do a presentation for the class by performing an impersonation of their assigned person. They may dress like the person, and each student in the group will describe a particular characteristic or fact about that person by impersonating them. After each person presents, they need to present a video online about that person.

Famous African Americans to be assigned:
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Rosa Parks
Harriet Tubman
Frederick Douglass
Harriet Beecher Stowe

During each presentation, the rest of the class as an audience will take notes on facts about the person being personified. They will then turn in their notes to me so that I may check and see what they learned. I also want them to write a reflection, stating why or why not they enjoyed this assignment.

**Example:**
In a group of four students, the first student might read from their script and say,
“Hello. My name is Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. I was born in 1929 and was an American clergyman, activist and prominent leader in the African-American civil rights movement.”
The second student might say, “In 1964, I became the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for my work to end racial segregation and racial discrimination through civil disobedience and other non-violent means.”
The third student in the group would continue and say, “I wrote the “I have a dream speech” but by the time of my death in 1968, I had refocused my efforts on ending poverty and opposing the Vietnam War, both from a religious perspective.”
And lastly, the fourth student might explain, “I was assassinated on April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee. I was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1977 and Congressional Gold Medal in 2004; Martin Luther King, Jr. Day was established as a U.S. national holiday in 1986.”
After each person presents in the group, they could find a video on youtube.com to present to the class. This video could be King presenting his famous “I have a dream…” speech, or any other video relevant to learning about King would be appropriate.