Georgia Performance Standards Framework for ELA Unit 6 – 6th Grade

Grade: 6
Topic: Proper Nouns and Capitalization
Instructional unit: Informational Text
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The task:
The teacher creates a deck of cards by writing letters of the alphabet on separate index cards. After the deck is shuffled, each student (or pair, group, etc.) will draw one card. With the letter they have drawn, students will be given one minute to brainstorm as many common nouns as they can. When students are finished, each student will choose one noun from the list and write as many proper nouns as they can which could replace the common noun. The teacher will give credit only for those correctly capitalized responses. Students will share their responses with the class.

Students, working with partner or in a group, will circle nouns in their draft. Students will substitute proper nouns for common nouns when applicable. They will capitalize proper nouns.

Differentiation:

1. Teacher will provide groups with a reminder card that defines nouns and proper nouns.
2. Teacher may provide students with an envelope of index cards. Each index card should have either a common noun or proper noun written on it. Students should separate proper nouns from the nouns. Teacher should monitor groups and check answers. After a certain time limit, students should replace index cards in envelope and switch with another group.
3. Teacher will provide students with highlighters and have them highlight the proper nouns in one color and the common nouns with another. In pairs, have students assist each other replacing common nouns with proper nouns when applicable. Remind students to capitalize all proper nouns!

Focus Standard:
ELA6C1 The student demonstrates understanding and control of the rules of the English language, realizing that usage involves the appropriate application of conventions and grammar in both written and spoken formats. The student
a. Identifies and uses the eight basic parts of speech and demonstrates that words can be different parts of speech within a sentence.
   i. Identifies and uses nouns – common and proper.
f. Produces final drafts that demonstrate accurate spelling and the correct use of punctuation and capitalization.

Circumstances of the assignment/Notes to the Teachers:
This activity can be used in any unit.

This could be done individually, with a partner, or in a group.

Some letters, such as ‘x’, ‘y’, ‘z’, ‘q’, etc., may need to placed on one card.
This could be made into a game in which the winner is the one who lists the most nouns. Credit is given only for correctly punctuated proper nouns.