

The Problem:

Fricassee, North Dakota is a small, agricultural town of nearly 8,000 people. Its cultural background is nearly 100% Scandinavian

This is a memo from the Fricassee High School Principal to the English Teachers and Librarians of Fricassee High:

As you all know by now, the city of Fricassee has recently received good news from the Tom Turkey Company that a turkey processing plant will be built in our community. With this good news comes our commitment to make the transition for our current students and our new students as smooth as possible. At the beginning of the next school year, there will be a 28% student population increase in our high school. These new students will be primarily from the Hispanic, Asian, and Middle Eastern cultures and are children of Immigrants. We will all need to work together to help in this transition. Change does not always happen smoothly and change without information, communication, and understanding can be unnecessarily difficult. With information, communication, and understanding, however, change can be a growing experience for all involved. It is with this in mind that I am asking each discipline to become involved in our exciting new adventure. As English teachers and librarians, I am asking you to put together a proposal that will help our current high school students understand and accept their new classmates and our new students to understand and accept their new classmates. I am asking you to create, within your disciplines, a “bonding and learning” experience of your own design that incorporates literature (and possibly other media). Please be prepared to submit your entire proposal to the administration by December 1.

Thank you in advance for your effort to help our current students and our new students learn “about” and “from” each other. I look forward to hearing and reading about your plans.

*Sincerely,
Mike James, Principal*