Christine Flugga

**Title:                                       Field Trip to the MN Zoo**

**Grade Level’s:**                       Middle School

**Content Area:**                   Life Science Class

**Time Frame:                           1 day**

**Objective:**

* Students will reflect on their ideas of normal throughout the field trip. This will be done by filling out a  
   worksheet based off of the guided questions.
* Students will then correlate the similarities and differences of their observations to those of humans and will   
  write an essay on it.

**Snappy Launch:**                     I will create a cd with various fun songs on it, including popular ones regarding   
tolerance and differences like [**Pink: Perfect**](http://youtu.be/-BIye98Ryic)

**Overview:**                               Students will study various animal species where:

* males take a leading role in raising young (emperor penguins)
* discussions on different family structures
* same-sex parents;

Each student will be given a handout to jaunt down observations from the various exhibits we will be looking at throughout the visit.

                                                I will be guiding the students around to exhibits and will be initiating discussion questions throughout.

**Sample Questions:**                 What parental roles do these animals display?

                                                Are they typical for animal species? Why or why not?

What do these species eat?

Where do these species live?

What signs of aggression did you observe?

What signs of affection did you observe?

What does their body language, gestures and facial expressions state?

Are same sex forms of affection normal for this species? Why or why not?

How does this species gestures and facial expressions differ from other species?

The possibilities of these question are endless.

**Assessment:**                           Students will hand in their worksheet that they made reflections on at the beginning  
 of the next class period.

                                                For homework students will reflect on the animal behavior observations and correlate   
that with human behaviors.

* 500-700 word essay on observations.
* Reflections on all of the key topics from worksheet
* To be handed in 2 days after the field trip at the beginning of class