

## **Teach Something to a Friend (Grades K-5 Lesson Plan)**

### **Overview:**

Ruth was studying to be a teacher of the domestic arts while she was a student at Simmons, and was very interested in learning about new things in Boston. This assignment uses her scrapbook as a jumping off point, that will help students think about the things that they are already interested in (hobbies or skills that they have acquired), and learn how to think procedurally to teach other students in their class how to do them too.

### **Learning Objectives:**

- Students will learn about history and primary sources from the scrapbook
- Students will learn to think critically about teaching and learning
- Students will learn to express themselves clearly and will learn to write procedurally
- Students will learn about the importance of precision in language

### **Resources:**

- Ruth D. Gates Digital Scrapbook
- Projector
- Pencil and paper if writing out
- If presenting in front of the class, props may be necessary

### **Procedure:**

1. Start by showing students materials from the scrapbook. Talk about what the domestic arts were and the kinds of classes that Ruth would have taken. Discuss with students the other things that she liked to do. Students can contribute by describing the kinds of things that they see in the source, prompted by the teacher if necessary. (20 min)
2. Talk about teaching and think about how Ruth might have gone about teaching her students in Connecticut how to do something (for example, how to make a cake, or cook a chicken). (10 min)
3. Open the discussion to the class to contribute things that they know how to do. It could be something their parents taught them to cook, or a craft or hobby that they are involved in. Anything that has steps that can be taught. Help them brainstorm by putting suggestions on the board. (15 min)
4. Pick one thing listed by the students as an example (its complexity will depend on age level) and ask the students to help you work through doing that thing step by step. (20 min)
5. Assign the students the task of thinking about something in particular that they think a classmate would like to learn that could be taught in class. It could be as simple as how to make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. The important thing is thinking about the steps involved. (20 min)

6. Group the students into pairs, have them write down or verbally lay out step by step how to do their chosen task. Make sure they understand the importance of including every step in the process. (20 min)
7. Have students teach each other using the steps they came up with. (45 min)
8. Have students present to the class what they learned. How hard was it to create directions for another student? What did they notice when they were trying to follow the other students directions? (Will vary according to class size)
9. Open up the discussion to the entire class. How might Ruth and her students' experiences been similar or different to theirs? (20 min)