

Prop Box Basics

A prop box is a box full of props for use in your classroom. An extra large plastic storage container with a lid works great as a prop box. Make sure you have a lid on your box so that students aren't tempted to play with props at inappropriate times.

Uses

- Skits
- News videos
- Interviews
- Attention-getters
- Keep things fun

Things to Include in Your Prop Box

- Graduation robe (can be used as a judge's robe)
- A few old looking dresses (button down, floral, plain black)
- A few sport coats
- Long skirts
- Glasses (cheap, silly)
- Gloves
- Hats (straw hats, cowboy hats)
- Bonnets
- Lab coats
- Large plain colored sheets or pieces of fabric (for togas, make-shift dresses)
- Wigs
- Tacky Clothing
- Plastic swords (no other weapons)
- Shields
- Umbrella
- Plastic necklaces
- Any costumes that are remotely historical (cowboy, Civil War, military)
- Plastic handcuffs
- Rope
- Microphone

Other Helpful Items

- Cardboard
 - Students can make cardboard weapons to use in skits
- Safety pins
 - To use if some clothing needs to be pinned together
- Duct tape
 - Students sometimes tape signs to themselves so others will know who they are

Where to Get Props

- Dollar Tree (straw hats, necklaces)
- Thrift stores
- Family members
- Churches
- Store clearance after Halloween (great time to get wigs)
- Ask students to bring in things for extra credit
- Historical reenactments
- Etsy (bonnets)
- Discount or pallet liquidation stores that sell Amazon/online returns, etc.
- Yard sales

Storing Props

- Under a computer table
- In a corner
- In the teacher workroom

Important Note

While the skits can have elements of silliness, be sure to use caution when dealing with historical events of a controversial nature. Choose your skit topics carefully and give clear guidelines to make sure students portray people respectfully and not in a mocking nature. When dealing with slavery, you may want to allow your students to reenact Harriet Tubman leading people to freedom on the underground railroad, but avoid allowing students to reenact things such as slaves working in the fields, etc. The goal is not to avoid hard topics but to use wisdom and common sense when conveying information others may be sensitive to.

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