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Invisible Ink Object Lesson

Materials

- ☐ One piece of card stock or watercolor paper or 11 index cards
- ☐ ¼ cup baking soda
- ☐ ¼ cup water
- ☐ 2 cups/containers
- ☐ Cotton swabs or small paintbrushes
- ☐ Lemon juice (fresh squeezed or bottled)
- ☐ Food coloring
- ☐ Optional: tape

Instructions

The night before class: *Mix ¼ cup baking soda with ¼ cup water and stir together in a cup to make "invisible ink." Tear a piece of card stock or watercolor paper into 11 pieces or gather 11 index cards. Using a cotton swab or small paintbrush, write one letter of the word MANUSCRIPTS on each card/piece (M on the first piece, A on the second, etc.).*

NOTE: You may want to make a small marking on the side of the paper with the invisible ink so that students know which side to paint to reveal the message the next day. Allow "ink" to dry completely overnight then bring the papers to class along with one cup/container, cotton swabs or paintbrushes, lemon juice, and food coloring.

Before students arrive: *Tape/hide the papers around the classroom or wait and pass them out. Prepare other supplies.*

To start class: *Pass out the papers with the invisible ink or direct students to find them taped/hidden in the room. Explain that to see the letter on each card, students will have to paint a special mixture over the paper.*

Choose a student to come up front and mix together the lemon juice and food coloring then use a paintbrush/cotton swab to paint over a hidden letter. Watch as the letter is revealed! Have other students with papers come up and paint over their letters until they are all visible. Direct students to unscramble the letters until they figure out the word MANUSCRIPTS. Continue with the Introduction in the Teacher Guide.

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