

FOOTBALL IN AMERICA

Lesson Plan

Athlete Acrostics

Lesson Plan for *The National Football League*
Grade 3

Objective

To help students explore how words that share Greek roots have similar meanings.

Things Needed:

- *The National Football League* book
- Whiteboard
- Paper and pencils

Before the Activity

Have students read *The National Football League*.

Activity

People often refer to the National Football League as the NFL. Explain that “NFL” is an acronym. Each letter stands for one word in the league’s title. Write these words in a column on the whiteboard and underline the first letter, like this:

National
Football
League

The word *acronym* comes from two Greek words: *akron* (which means “end” or “tip”) and *onoma* (which means “name”). Add the word *acronym* and its Greek roots to the whiteboard above the column of words.

Several other words in the English language come from similar Greek roots. For example, write the word *acrostic* on the whiteboard. This word also comes from the Greek root *akron* (“end”). But this word’s second half is the Greek word *stikhos* (which means “row” or “line of verse”). An acrostic is a poem where each line starts with one letter of a word.



Add these two Greek roots underneath *acrostic* on the whiteboard. Then write the following sample acrostic poem, underlining the first letter of each line:

Nine yards to run with opponents to block

Five seconds left counting down on the clock

Let's reach the end zone and show that we rock!

Ask students to write an acrostic poem using the word *athlete*. The poem can be about any sport or athletic event they like. But each line should start with the next letter of the word.

Evaluation

Walk around the classroom as students are writing, making sure that each student follows the poem's format. Invite a few volunteers to read their poems out loud. Then hang all the poems on a wall of the classroom.

Standards

This lesson plan may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' language standards, grade 3 (L 3.4), and writing standards, grade 3 (W 3.4).

