**Homelessness Awareness Lesson Plan: Week of**

**Topic:**  Introduction to Main Causes of Homelessness

**Main Idea:** Students will explore the 4 main categories that can lead to homelessness, Addiction, Loss of Job/Benefits, Mental Illness/Veterans, and Family Crisis. They will see how one cause can lead to another and many times there is a snowball effect of multiple reasons that may be the cause

**Activities:**

1.) Students will draw an image of what they feel a homeless person looks like. They will also identify words they feel are attached to a homeless person or group.

2.) Group discuss will be held to cover drawings and words. Myths will be discussed and facts will be explained.

3.) Small group instruction will involve creation a Graphic Organizer web with Homelessness as the center topic and the four main reasons as the subtopics. The students will fill in supporting details for each of the areas to be part of group discussion.

4.) Students will view video discussing NFL player who became homeless due to Mental Illness, and Drug Addiction.

**Assessment:** Drawings, Word List and Webs are collected to be observed and returned at the end of project for reflection

**Closure/Reflection-** Students will reflect on what was learned by writing in their journals.

**YouTube Links:**  <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/former-nfl-player-tackles-homelessness-after-living-under-la-freeway/>

**Web Resources/Articles:** <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/former-nfl-player-tackles-homelessness-after-living-under-la-freeway/>