



# Class in Session

## with Jeb Bush

### Lessons in the Arts with Brad Meltzer

#### Teacher's Guide

[Class in Session with Jeb Bush](#) (#ClassWithJeb) is a series of video conversations with the visionaries of today. Created specifically for secondary school students and relevant for the classroom, these 20-minute virtual conversations—hosted by former Florida Governor Jeb Bush—draw out personal and professional experiences and, especially important, elicit advice for America's next generation from leaders across the nation.

#### VIDEO

#### [WATCH: Lessons in the Arts with Brad Meltzer](#)



New York Times bestselling author Brad Meltzer shares insights from his successful career as an author and his thoughts on why writing is such an important element of a student's education.

#### PROMPTS FOR STUDENTS

As you watch the video, think about the following:

- What was a defining moment in Brad's high school career? How did he later acknowledge the teacher who had supported him?
- Brad says his grandmother's library card was more powerful than Harry Potter's wand. What does he mean by this?
- Why does Brad celebrate failure every day?
- Brad talks about the difference between being famous and being a hero. Why is this important to him?



## ASSIGNMENTS FOR STUDENTS

Choose one of the following assignments in response to the video [Lessons in the Arts with Brad Meltzer](#).

### CHOICE BOARD

#### *Lessons in the Arts with Brad Meltzer*

#### EXPLORE

Watch [this TED Talk](#) to learn more about the unexpected benefit of celebrating failure.

Brad and Governor Bush reference Abraham Lincoln's inaugural speeches. Read his [first](#) and [second](#) inaugural addresses.

Brad encourages students to thank their teachers. [Learn why gratitude is good](#) for our bodies, minds and relationships.

#### DISCUSS

Discuss one of the following questions with someone:

- Being a great reader is the first step to being a great writer. What do you want to be? What first step could you take toward that goal today?
- A high school English teacher told Brad he could write, and that changed his life. What words of encouragement have influenced you?
- Brad says a good idea is like lightning—you never know where it's going to hit from. Have you had a great idea that was sparked by something unexpected?

#### WRITE

Select one of the following writing prompts:

- Heroes all have moments where they are scared yet choose to go forward. Research a hero you admire and create a list the challenges they faced and obstacles that made them think of giving up on their mission or dream. Then describe how the world would be different if they had given up.
- Identify someone who has invested in you or taken a chance on you. Write a message thanking them and expressing how their actions have impacted you.

#### ILLUSTRATE

Choose one of the following prompts to create a piece of art, produce a video, write a song or create a dance. Send a photo or video to [Jeb@ExcelinEd.org](mailto:Jeb@ExcelinEd.org).

- "Reach for the light"
- The power of persuasion.
- Turning failure into rocket fuel.