NGoldstein
Reflection - The Danger of a Single Story - Lesson Plan

I wrote this lesson plan for my first job interviews after one summer in a teacher induction program. Looking back on it after one year of full-time teaching and lesson planning, I feel it is relatively sound -- most of the way through.

I like the way the plan starts, by checking in with students and asking them to put their thumbs up/down. I like that they have a "Do Now" activity which directly relates to the theme and content of the day's lesson. And I am still very proud of the quality of the material I chose to present -- this remains one of my favorite TED talks.

Room for improvement exists as the lesson progresses and skips ahead too far, perhaps not explaining explicitly enough what I expect students to do before I ask them to do it. For example, I spend the lesson teaching them to add "background knowledge" to "what they read" to make an inference. Then, suddenly, the exit ticket asks them to interpret the meaning of the speech's title, "The Danger of a Single Story." The plan asks them to perform complex work without teaching them to do it or explaining what it means.

 The exit ticket should be a simple task which directly demonstrates the skill that was learned in the day's lesson -- not test new or teach new information. So, if I were to rewrite it, I might do something more similar to the Do Now and give them a line from further along in the text, asking them to infer meaning using the skills they learned in class.

Similarly, the homework makes no sense! I like the idea of having the students watch the remainder of the speech at home and responding to thought questions. But the questions in this lesson plan need to be totally simplified and reworked to seventh grade common core standards.