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Yet another week with the lovely EO Catharine! I felt quite lucky to have been evaluated while working with her and I have enjoyed the rapport we have built over the last month. I helped her lead a group of grade 7s and 8's through yet another Creativity Challenge. Fortunately, the good working relationship myself and Catharine had developed over the last few weeks made it an enjoyable one where I had ample opportunity to lead. The lesson plan also delivered and added twist on the lesson. Since the afternoon's studio tour focused on literature and the visual arts, the second "practical" half of the Challenge focused on the creation of narratives in art. Catharine's lesson plans focused on the construction of meaning through material, and was highly focused on the simple "making of things: two things I am also quite passionate about. Hence, while Catharine lead the instruction on the conceptual concerns of the project, I was charged with demonstrating the variety of possible uses of material. I ended the transmission-modeled part of my instruction and transitioned into a more engaging transactional model, in which I asked students for feedback on the narratives they could interpret from an example of past student work.

One new development that I absolutely adored was Catharine's creation of a "story circle" to critique the finished pieces. All tables were pushed out the sides of the room, with the exception of one placed in the middle, on which the artworks sat. Chairs were placed around the table in a circle, allowing for an environment where every group could proudly display their works, while having every student in the class able to see it and hear their commentary.

What worked so well about this the fact that a change of the physical space was also automatically a change of psychological space. Instead of having students stand around a table (excluding many from the conversation who was not within this inner circle), everyone had an equal opportunity to participate, and were in fact encouraged to do so by the nature of the space.

I felt that much of the content of my instruction was informative, relevant, and helpful to students, and that I was able to project my voice most of the time. I know that my greatest strengths as an instructor occur in intimate one-on-one discussions with students about their work, and I felt extremely energized and of use to students while wile circulating between the groups. However, I was disappointed in how I was not more assertive, and sometimes lost the group a little bit during some quick critiques of the warm-up challenges.

It's strange for me, because as a summer arts instructor, I was always very assertive and engaged leader. I think the reason for out of character behaviour was that the dynamic of being an assistant, as apposed to being an EO, is by nature less of an assertive role. However, next session, I am determined to meet my goal of speaking much more authoritatively!