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INTR 3B05

Lesson Concept Design

Art and art teaching in the middle school environment is put on the back burner. It is not seen

as one of the fundamental subject of learning for the young students. In this lesson design I wish to

explore an art teaching program in the classroom environment for the middle school, grades six to

eight, that engages and excited the students creativity. I wish to enhance the art programs by creating a

lesson that cannot be considered craft. The boundaries of these limitations will be pushed by creating a

class lesson where the students will learn about photography, a medium that I am passionate about.

First the students will be asked what is photography and what it means to them. They will be

given a chance to brainstorm in small groups of 4-5 creating a word web of what they think of

photography. The students will be given a brief history of photography, starting from its birth and

highlighting important achievements of this medium. Once this is completed the students will have a

chance to create their own photographs. Each student will be given their own disposable camera with

26 exposures where they can experience taking their own creative photographs. The class will be taken

together to different location around the school, the playground, the hallways, the front entrance. They

will create photographs with the use of the subject matter that surrounds them on a daily basis as well

as incorporating their own theme that is of interest. The students will come back to the classroom after

our shoot and they will be given time to add to their word web. Incorporating any other information

they discovered about photography after experiencing it first hand.

To begin to understand art teaching we first must begin with answering the question of 'why

teach art'? The rationales that I have formulated have been surrounded by the idea of art as an outlet of

not only expression, but also as a tool for release. The goal for this lesson concept is to create an

interactive environment for the students where they can use their own knowledge as well as creativity

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in a fun learning environment. This lesson will allow the students time where they can be completely

and totally creatively free. They are able to produce whatever their hearts desire within the medium of

photography. I want the students to be able to express their creativity through a medium they do not

get a chance to use in their own art class. In my own personal experience I was not able to experience

photography until I was in university. I find it disappointing that young students do not get a chance to

explore a variety of mediums at an early age.

Art is a tool for children to express themselves with total freedom. A place for release from any

burden or stress that might be bothering the students. A place where they can let their minds escape

from reality for a short while. The aim for this lesson is to not only give the students a chance to

experiment with a medium they do not use in a classroom setting, but also a chance to express themselves freely.

The curricular orientation in this lesson is applicable to middle school, grades six to eight being

my target age. I wish to use this lesson as a way to better understand where students of these ages

stand in our technology advanced world. Peeking into their world to see how they view photography

and the camera as it is readily available to everyone and everywhere. Camera's are no longer these

precious things that are hard to come by, rather they are on every device imaginable that we carry on

us. Using the students own personal experiences with photography, I wish to give them a look into the

evolution of this medium. Where it started juxtaposed to where it is today. Each student will take their

own experiences of photography and incorporate them, whether consciously or subconsciously, into

their studio project.

The target objectives for this lesson is for students to see photography in a new light, no longer

this commodity that is surrounding us in the digital world we now live. The students will be exposed to

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how easily available camera's are to everyone in our society, something that was not always the case.

The goal is for the students is to ask and answer for themselves how can photography be used in

creative ways and not just for facebook photos? Outlining the role that photography already has in

their lives, but now looking with a more careful eye. Using photography to express a meaning or

theme that is of importance to the students. The world of technology is always expanding rapidly and

newer versions of everything are always being created, but I want the students to see that it is not the

best camera that will give them the best photograph, but it is their own creative twist. Bringing their

personal aspect into the lesson will create a greater feel of achievement and intimacy to the medium.

The lesson's pedagogy is to create a new interaction between student and photography where

they construct creative images that reflect their own interests. At the start of the lesson they will write

the word photography in the middle of a large piece of paper. In groups of 4-5 the students will

brainstorm words that describe what photography means to them. They will ultimately construct a

mind map for the medium. The brainstorm map will give a good idea of where the students place

themselves with photography and each of their personal relationships to it. The lesson will continue

with myself facilitating a mini presentation of photography, beginning with its birth and highlighting

the achievements of the medium. All along displaying images for the students to see, which will help

get their minds thinking creatively. Next there will be a brief lesson on the elements and principles of

design as they relate to photography. Giving examples of altering perspectives, ways of framing the

composition differently, and experimenting with lighting. Before beginning the hands on studio section

the students will individually need to formulate an idea or theme that is of interest for themselves and

begin to think of ways they can show it through a photograph.

The studio section of this lesson will give the students a chance to explore the elements and

principles by using them to highlight their concept or personal experiences they wish to show though

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the medium of photography. Each student will be given their own disposable camera with 26

exposures where they can experience taking their own photographs. The group of students will be

taken together on a unofficial tour of their school. They will be taken to places they pass by everyday

and might not consider them to be beautiful or out of the ordinary. The students will create

photographs with the use of the subject matter they are surrounded by on a daily basis. Once all the

camera's are filled with images, the group will return back to the room where they will add to their

group brainstorm web and add new ideas they have of photography in a different coloured pen. The

use of a new colour will display where they started with their knowledge of photography and what they

have learned. This will allow the students as well as myself the chance to see evidence of the progress

of their learning and growth. At the end of the lesson the student's will take their disposable camera

home, develop them and keep their great work as a souvenir of the day.

The outcome for this lesson is for the students to learn a history of photography, the elements

and principles of design, what photography means to them and how to look and see with the eye of a

photographer through hands on experience. During the class lesson of teaching I will be asking the

students questions in order to keep them interactive with the lesson and ideas surrounding photography.

Once we move on to their group brainstorming I will circulate throughout the room, asking them why

they have chosen certain words and what photography means to them individually. In the active

environment of the shoot I will be taking photographs with them, showing them techniques if they need

direction. I will be watching their reactions during the shoot and make adjustments if needed on the

spot. I am interested in their photographs, but more interested in what they discover about the medium

of photography and how they will look at it differently after the lesson.

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The reflection for this lesson relates closely to my own student life at OCADU as I am a

photography minor. I find interest in the everyday documentary style and most of my projects revolve

around this interest. I use the documentary style of photography to explore my interests in the

everyday beauty. Using this style in a loose way, I wish for the students to see that not all art works

are to be created in a strict studio setting.