

Lesson Design Concept

I really enjoyed my time doing guided gallery tours although my main passion is helping others create art. The time I spent doing tours at the AGO has changed the way I want to approach teaching art in terms of how to get students to communicate their ideas. I learned some good strategies on the tours such as asking open-ended questions. These open-ended questions allow for critical and analytical thinking in a safe environment that does not intimidate students. I also learned some great strategies in the studio while doing the Creativity Challenge. I want to combine these organizational strategies I learned in the studio with my favourite tour that was on identity. This project would be best for ages ten and up

1. Give each student a piece of paper and instruct them to draw their ideal location (provide a mix of materials for a mixed media back drop)
2. On another sheet of paper tell them to draw five symbols or icons that represents different aspects of their identities such as a flag from their heritage
3. After they are finished step two instruct them to take elements from each symbol or icon to create a creature
4. When the creature is finished instruct the student to cut it out and paste it into their background

Once the works have been created there are many possibilities of what you can do with them. One option would be to put them all up on the wall and try to guess which student made each work. Another idea would be for each student to come up with a story based on the

picture they made. The students could also switch drawings with a partner and write stories about each other's creations. The students could also be put into groups and combine all of their characters and settings into one narrative. If there was unlimited time and supplies each student could make a costume based on their creature and play around with the character's physicalities. They could make sets based on their drawings and put on skits.

This project allows students to explore and think about what an identity is and all the components that shape it are. By experimenting with the idea of their own identities through art it provides a safe space to express themselves. It also gives them an insight into how artists put their own identities into their work. It promotes taking literal analytical and turning it into abstract thinking.