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AP Capstone - Period 6

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Source Analysis 4

MLA Citation: Tomljenovic, Zlata. "An Interactive Approach to Learning and Teaching in Visual Arts Education." *CEPS Journal : Center for Educational Policy Studies Journal*, vol. 5, no. 3, 2015., pp. 73-93. (online book pdf)

Source Validation: The Center for Educational Policy Studies published this source, which includes data from a real pedagogical experiment on visual art students in Croatia.

Source Discovery: This source was found through Columbia University's online library database.

Intended audience: This source is directed towards school education analysts, visual arts teachers, and those training to teach visual arts.

What arguments/topics does this source discuss?: Research on students from primary schools in Croatia has helped identify teaching methods in a visual arts education that would optimize the learning experience. The source argues that an interactive approach to teaching allows for higher learning efficiency in the classroom studio. Specifically, the author explains how an interactive approach has a positive impact on students' understanding of visual arts terms, painting skills, and creativity in solving visual arts problems. The main difference between traditional teaching methods and contemporary teaching methods is that the latter utilizes "two way communication" to develop a student's own insight on his or her art through indirect

guidance. The communication is essentially a social process and conversation in which teachers share their artistic experience to assist students. The source also states that the socio-emotional relationship between teachers and students is important for proper learning. Tomljenovic argues that the studies from Croatia should be the main influence on training visual arts teachers in the future.

Quotes, paraphrases, and summaries:

1. “Students are seen as active knowledge constructors, who build their own personal knowledge based on their thinking, with the indirect help of the teacher.”
2. An effective classroom conversation, as stated by the publication, is always improvisational. Teaching in the visual arts should be “also a creative art, an improvisational performance”.
3. Teaching methods in visual arts involve both general and subject-specific methods. Specific methods pertain to specific artistic fields, their features and issues. They encourage students to think about the visual stimulus and to observe subject matter from a different perspective for deeper, individual insight. Specific methods are used in aesthetic communication between teachers, students and artworks; understanding visual arts phenomena and patterns in relation to everyday life; and creative approach to art materials.