

ART IN THE TIME OF COVID-19 UNIT/LESSON PLAN

Student: Suzanne Hamilton

Teacher: Michka Bedasee

School: 22K251, PS 251, Paerdegat

Principal: Sheldon Noel

Grade: 4

Title: Abstract Mask

Medium: Sculpture

Remote Learning Unit/Lesson Description

The focus of this lesson was for students to learn about abstract art. I found that my students in upper elementary were hesitant to take risks with their art because their focus was on making their work look realistic. This recurring problem gave me the idea to introduce Pablo Picasso's abstract style to my students.

Before we switched to remote learning, we looked at Pablo Picasso's *Girl in a Red Beret* and *Woman in a Hat*. Students talked about what they noticed in the paintings, what message they felt the artist was trying to communicate, the colors, shapes and if they thought the image looked realistic and what made it look unrealistic.

When we switched to remote instruction the students began their 3D work.

Instructional Objectives for Unit, Overriding goal at end of a series of lessons:

Not all artwork has to be representational. Abstract art is art that does not attempt to represent an accurate depiction of a visual reality. It conveys meaning using different methods.

Blueprint:

- **Expression**
- **Three-dimensionality (Grade 5)**

Learning Target: What you wanted students to learn during the lesson (in student voice).

I will understand that art is not always realistic. Abstract artists do not want their art to look realistic.

I will create an abstract mask using color unrealistic colors and proportions.

Activity: What they did.

Students tried their hardest to apply all that we learned in the classroom to their new remote circumstances. Due to circumstances and the sudden shift in learning there was no limit to what materials they could use to execute their abstract art project.

Most students created drawings of their masks with different colors and patterns, some used construction paper and others were able to cut pieces of cardboard, draw the shape of the mask, draw, cut and arrange the facial features and glue them down. This student used cardboard and paint.

Criteria:

The main criterion for successful execution of this project was for students to demonstrate their understanding of abstract art in their work. They were given a short version of the PowerPoint we used in class prior for our discussion on Google Classroom. The PowerPoint included a caption of the artist, the paintings we looked at, and examples of the artwork they were working towards.

In the Google Classroom Description, they were given words of encouragement to create and reminders of what we discussed. In addition to the PowerPoint students were aided with a video showing me modeling how to create an abstract-inspired artwork with distorted features.

- Use of non-realistic color
- Expression of mask
- Attention to the 3D quality of their work

Reflection:

It was important that students fully allow themselves to explore the materials they were using. By prompting them to play with the arrangement of the facial features of their mask before attaching them allowed students to see their mask in a *cool* asymmetrical form - just like the Picasso paintings we looked at.

Secondly it was important that students understand the medium they were working in. There are different forms of sculpture and the form closest to what we were working in was relief.

This was the first project I launched on Google Classroom. It was tough at first because I was learning how to navigate a new way of teaching and delivering information. I felt this lesson was a good segue for students to become comfortable with the idea of submitting artwork remotely because I had given them the foundation and information to do so. It was up to them to take full accountability and create and deliver what they knew and understood. I am proud of the results.