

The teachers who made the biggest impact in my life were those who created an environment in which I felt free to make inquiries and be open about what I did and didn't know. As a teacher it is now my responsibility to create an environment that fosters curiosity, open communication, validation for achievement, and courage to make mistakes. The aspects of art education most important to me are: the interaction with visual and material culture, relating to the external world through exploration of the self, and a broadened worldview through diversity and inclusion. Those concepts can be woven into art education in a way that fosters individual growth and respect for oneself and one's peers.

The interaction with visual and material culture is one of the primary duties of an artist. By creating lesson plans that develop technical skill, I will show students how they can create new pieces of our culture. By encouraging students to explore their visual and material world and the ideas that generate it, every student can discover pathways to original, meaningful expression. As a teacher, I believe it is my responsibility to integrate the technical aspects of art making with an honest search for, and a significant contemplation of our visual and material culture.

Students are in a critical time of self discovery. As a teacher, it is my goal to create lessons plans that foster insight and personal growth. I emphatically believe that each student can direct their own projects toward avenues of self examination and discovery. Furthermore, I believe that the revelatory experience of art is available to all students regardless of technical proficiency. Leading students to a finished piece and showing them ways to reflect on the results can inspire personal growth and continued interest in learning about themselves and the world.

As students integrate this period of self discovery into their worldview, a multicultural education in an inclusive environment will prepare them for a global society. I believe the best results of multicultural education are the development of an expanded world view, and the beginning of curiosity about people and cultures that will remain with students for life. As a teacher, it is my responsibility to guide students through an education that strives for diversity and inclusion while affirming the accomplishments of the dominant culture that has shaped the worldview of students in the past.

Finally, I believe that not everybody is an artist, but art is a part of everybody. Students will expand their potential to become the best versions of themselves by learning art. While I acknowledge the importance of STEM classes, I believe the leaders of the future will come from educational systems that address the creative aspect of what it means to be human. As a teacher, my best work will be the discoveries my students make about themselves and the world, and the respect they discover for the world and themselves that is realized through art.

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