

Instruction & Assessment

I believe that assessment has its place in the art room but can be overdone. Art is not like math and science where tests can help you learn the content. Art is centered around making. When it comes to assessing art there is no set way to go about it. I gravitate towards having students produce thumb nail sketches before a final work to improve the planning process. Craftsmanship is huge in art and somewhat simple to assess. If their work is clean and crisp, no wrinkles or finger smudges it was successful. You can tell if something was done last minute or had a lot of time and thought put in.

I have had experience in the art classroom at the highschool, middle and elementary level. I have found that allowing students choice in the art room is very important for their creative development as well as the teachers. I have had to come up with creative ways to assess their art without forcing them to produce the same project. I would assess on how the students could talk about their artwork or other's art work or if they were able to properly utilize the materials.

When I was teaching at Polaris Expeditionary Learning School I taught a lesson about personifying stones into creatures. The way I was able to check for comprehension was through assessment. The students had to put some quality of the stone given into a creature like color, shape, or texture. They also were required to name their creatures and give them a personality using a worksheet. Throughout the unit the class focused on several different mediums like pencil, paint, clay and found objects. I was able to assess which students succeeded at certain mediums and which students had trouble.

There were also some huge reflective and communicative properties of the lesson. The students went on artist walks around the classroom to see what their classmates were working on. Then they sat in a circle and shared their findings in a caring and respectful manner. I made sure to ask the students when they were in a group if they had any struggles or successes they wanted to share with the class. This created an environment where students felt comfortable to come to each other for help instead of always relying on the teacher. I believe that this reflective piece plays a huge role in assessment within an art classroom. It created the opportunity to authentically assess the class as a whole as well as individuals.

How I assessed the agate lesson:

- Thumbnail sketches
- Qualities of stones
- Were they able to create a creature?
- 3-D thinking and creating
- Writing a creature bio
- Craftsmanship
- Art language