

3 art

activities for the beginning of the year



Exercise #1: Building Paper towers.

Learning Objectives:

- Students will learn how to work together and communicate as a team
- Students will demonstrate their understanding of the terms, free standing, sculpture in the round, and negative space.
- Students will work through the creative process and experience discovery learning

National Core Standards

VA:CR1.1.8A : Document early stages of the creative process visually and/or verbally in traditional or new media.

VA:CR2.1.IIA: Through experimentation, practice, and persistence, demonstrate acquisition of skills and knowledge in a chosen art form.

VA:CN10.1.11A: Utilize inquiry methods of observation, research, and experimentation to explore unfamiliar subjects through artmaking.

Supplies:

- Paper (I use old drawing paper, 11"x 14") But any paper will work. Keep it simple and cheap.
- Masking tape
- Scissors

Break students into groups of 4 or smaller depending on how many students you have. Each group gets 15 pieces of paper and 15 pieces of tape. They have one class period to make a sculpture that meets the following requirements:

- As tall as possible
- Free standing
- Sculpture in the round
- Has as much negative space as possible

I have them complete the lessons in one class period because storage just doesn't really work.

Reflect: We take the last few minutes of class to see what everyone created, and to discuss how made the best sculpture in the round, and who used the most negative space.

I do not tell the students what the terms mean in advance. If they are unfamiliar with the terms, they are allowed to look them up.

Exercise #2: Paper Airplane challenge

Learning Objectives:

- The students will create paper airplanes that are able to fly.
- The students will learn to work through the creative process and respond to changes when their ideas aren't working.
- The students will communicate ideas with each other.

Supplies:

- Paper
- Scissors

Break students into groups of two.

Challenge:

Students have the class period to create 2 paper airplanes. One should be as large as they can make and fly as far as possible, and the other should be as small as possible and fly as far as possible.

I usually give students around 5 pieces of computer paper, so that they can make adjustments as needed.

Near the end of class allow some time for all of the groups to test their planes against each other, to see which ones do fly the farther.

Reflect:

- What was your creative process in creating the planes?
- What problems did you encounter?
- How do you work through your problems?
- What would you do differently if you did this again?

Exercise #3: Painting Blind

Learning Objectives:

- The students will practice talking about the formal qualities of a work of art.
- The students will mix colors from primary colors to match colors in their painting.
- The students will collaborate to complete a finished painting

Supplies:

- Paint
- Paint brushes
- Water
- Paper towels
- Paper to paint on
- Blindfold
- Examples of abstract paintings

Put students into groups of 2. One student will wear the blindfold and the other will provide instruction.

The student that is able to see can help the other student to select and mix the correct paint colors, but they may not touch the other student, the paintbrush, or the paper at all to help in the painting process.

Here you'll find a collection of paintings that work well for this activity:

<https://www.pinterest.com/amberkanescarf/abstract-art/>

Reflect: Look at the two paintings, do they look similar?

What worked well and what didn't?

How did the person the was blindfolded feel?

How did the person that was giving instructions feel?