Art, Empathy, and Activism Unit
Art & JAG PBL
Grade: 7
Length: approximately 3 weeks, 50 minute classes

Vocabulary: Empathy, Blind Contour, Landscape, Foreground, Middleground, Background, Art Therapy, Social Justice, Advocacy, Advertisement

Kansas Visual Art Standards:
- (Cr2.3.7) Apply visual organizational strategies to design and produce a work of art, design, or media that clearly communicates information or ideas
- (Cr3.1.7) Reflect on and explain important information about personal artwork in an artist statement or other format
- (Cn10.1.7) Individually or collaboratively create visual documentation of places and times in which people gather to make and experience art or design in community.

Essential Question: Can art make a difference?

Materials: Tempera paint, paint brushes, acrylic paint, pencil, paper, misc. Materials for choice-based project, worksheets, sketchbooks

Day 1
- Get into partners, sit back-to-back
- Partners are given photos (landscapes, portraits, abstract art, etc.)
- Partner 1 explains verbally what they see in the photo to Partner 2
- Partner 2 draws their interpretation of what Partner 1 is saying
- Reveal, laugh, and switch roles
- Class discussion: What was hard? What was easy? Opinions?
- Introduce ‘Empathy’: the ability to understand and share the feelings of another. Explain that by losing one of our senses (sight), we must focus on details and create the image in our own mind.
- Try 2 more times with different groups
- Exit ticket: reflect

Day 2
- Introduce ‘Blind Contour’: a drawing exercise, where an artist draws the contour of a subject without looking at the paper.
- Draw hands without looking down at the paper
- Let students look down at paper after 5 minutes
● Try 3 more times
● Discuss as a class: Was this harder than yesterday’s activity? Why/why not?
● Optional activities (if extra time):
  ○ Draw partners’ face using blind contour
  ○ Use mirrors to draw your own face using blind contour

Day 3
● Timeline of Rwandan Genocide, brief explanation of events
● Introduction to Frederick Ndabaramiye: a Rwandan artist with no arms.
  ○ For teachers’ background knowledge: https://iamableucc.wordpress.com/meet-frederick/
● Class watches 12 minute Youtube of Frederick: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0vbzKogzxcE&feature=youtu.be
● Attempt to paint with brushes in between their elbows
● Attempt the same activity with brushes in between teeth

Day 4
● Introduce ‘Landscape’: natural scenery such as mountains, valleys, trees, rivers, and forests, especially where the main subject is a wide view – with its elements arranged into a coherent composition.
● Introduce ‘Foreground, Middleground, Background’:

![Diagram of picture space](image)

- Schematic drawing of picture space

- Research/brainstorm ideas/images for landscape painting
- Sketch

Day 5
● Draw landscape in pencil
● Examples:
Day 6, 7, 8

- Video demo on painting
- Paint landscape
Day 9
● Introduce 'Art Therapy': a form of psychotherapy involving the encouragement of free self-expression through painting, drawing, or modeling, used as a remedial activity or an aid to diagnosis.
● Introduce 'Social Justice': justice in terms of the distribution of wealth, opportunities, and privileges within a society.
● Show presentation on Rwandan Art Programs
  ○ Inema Arts Center
  ○ Ivuka Arts Center
● Students brainstorm causes they would be interested/passionate about

Day 10 - Library Day
● Introduce Advocacy: the act or process of supporting a cause or proposal
● Part 1 worksheet: Dosomething.org
● Research organizations (find contacts, Mission Statements, gather info)
● Draft contact email - submit to Canvas
Let’s make a change!

Link: www.dosomething.org

1. Choose a cause!
2. Click “1 hour or less”
3. Click “Make Something”
Day 11

- Show examples of Advocacy Art
- Introduce ‘Advertisement’: a notice or announcement in a public medium promoting a product, service, or event or publicizing a job vacancy.
  - Show examples of good design in promotional art
- Part 2 worksheet: Draft email end contact organization

## Art/JAG PBL p. 1

**Let’s make a change!**

Explore 4 causes you might be interested in helping from [www.dosomething.org](http://www.dosomething.org)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Title:</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wildlife Cards</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What’s the purpose of this organization?</td>
<td>What’s the purpose of this organization?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>To appreciate wildlife rangers</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why would you be interested in this one?</td>
<td>Why would you be interested in this one?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>I care about animals and our environment. These rangers help protect those things.</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Emailing your organization

OK, you've found what you're passionate about. Now let's see what local Kansas City organizations do something similar to your #1 choice from Art/JAG PBL p. 1.

There's a packet FULL of Kansas City organizations that help out our local society. Browse through them and use Google to look them up. Once you've found one that matches your interests, write their information here!

This is the one you will make a piece of art for!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization Name</th>
<th>Website link</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YMCA-8th Street</td>
<td><a href="https://kansascityymca.org/locations/8th-street">https://kansascityymca.org/locations/8th-street</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Person's Name: Tracy Young
Email: T.Young@YMCA.org

What's the purpose of this organization?
The 8th St. Family YMCA offers facilities & programs to meet a variety of interests to serve our community. Se habla español.

Why would you be interested in this one?
I like to play sports and be active. This organization promotes a healthy lifestyle.

Day 12, 13, 14, 15, 16
- Part 3 worksheet: Mixed media art project to promote Social Justice and Advocacy for a KC Nonprofit organization
- Teacher critique daily, peer critique built in as needed
- Requirements:
  - digital, drawing, painting, photography
○ Paragraph Artist Statement explaining artistic choices
○ Make contact with the organization - share artwork - social media
○ 18"x18" square poster board
○ Have organization name on it, mission statement, visually appealing, good craftsmanship, clear lettering, creative images to represent cause,

● Presentation: who can attend TMS Kindness & Culture night?
● Reflection

Pre-assessment

1) Which of the following is a LANDSCAPE:

A. 

B. 

A. 

B.
2) What is in the FOREGROUND of this painting?
A. Houses  
B. Mountains  
C. A tree  
D. Sky

3) Which of the following is an example of a NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION?  
A. The NFL  
B. The Humane Society  
C. McDonalds  
D. All of these are non profit organizations

4) In your own words, explain what you think SOCIAL JUSTICE is.
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Post-assessment  
Artist Statement (paragraph describing artistic choices and processes)