

Art Autobiography

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The Arts in STEM: Advancing Meaningful Integration

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### Abstract

In this assignment, I recall my previous experiences with the arts and make connections to my present feeling on the subject. I will also reflect on how my own teaching is influenced by those who once taught me. Finally, after reflecting, I will have my own definition of art and what I hope to accomplish by bring art into my science classroom.

## Art Autobiography

### **Introduction**

What is art? According to the Oxford Dictionary, art is a form of expression or application of human skills towards the imagination. I have never considered myself to be an Art teacher or an artist in anyway. I enjoy experiencing art and I have an appreciation for it. I enjoy expressing myself in different forms of art. I do use my imagination and skills to express myself through song, doodling, and creating lesson plans. I guess I could see myself as sketching, then I bring them to life in the classroom. I have always seen myself as a creative person, just not an “artist”. As I reflect back it is hard to pinpoint where I got that from.

### **Recall**

In school, we had art class through elementary school and middle school. It was a mandatory class taken one semester a year. We were able to choose our classes in high school. In elementary school, art class was always a fun class to go to. It was full of fun crafts I got to take home to my Mom and Dad. The teacher was very kind and caring. I can remember doing a project where we had to make necklaces out of wires. I made a star for my mom. I still see it hanging in her jewelry box to this day. Middle school art class was not as much fun for me. The art teacher would take our work at the end of class and help us “fix it up”. It always looked beautiful, but it never truly felt like my own art. The teacher made me feel as though my art was not good enough. I quickly began disliking the class and tried less on the projects. I moved onto more theatrical arts after this. I joined musical, band, and chorus. I found myself in this kind of art and loved it! In high school when I got to pick classes I took band and choir every year. This left little room in my schedule for anything else. I avoided the regular art class and would

instead admire the work of my peers taking the class. Outside of school, my Mother encouraged my creative side with coloring books, scrap booking, and sketch pads. She would buy me new materials, pay for my music lessons (both piano and singing lessons), and drive me where I needed to go. She wanted me to do what I loved and she enjoyed having someone to sing with.

### **Reflect**

These experiences stand out to me when I look back mainly because of the people; my elementary art teacher, middle school art teacher, and mother. They each either encouraged me or discouraged me towards the arts. I remember a lot about my early experiences in the arts, because they defined me for a long time. All through middle and high school I was a band kid. Music, as an art form, defined me for a time. Going into college and adulthood I lost a lot of that enthusiasm and love for the art. I would love to start playing the piano again and singing more.

As an adult, I find that I am lacking the time for music. As for drawing and painting, I find myself just thinking that I am not good at it. That could have been derived from the middle school art teacher. I believe that I was successful in art throughout my school career, K-12. I lost interest in the subject and hope to regain that love in taking this class.

### **Connect**

My own definition of art would involve expression and emotion, whether that be through drawing, music, or dance. Art is a way to express emotions and skills in a creative way. I view art as a way to relieve stress, to connect with other people, and to connect with emotions on a personal level.

Each person, each teacher, has their own ideas and beliefs of what art is and the best way to teach it. During this course, I would like to learn more about art, get some different

perspectives on the topic, and gather ideas on how to bring art into my science classroom. My past experiences have shaped my own definition of art and the way I feel towards it. I want to bring my positive outlook on art to my classroom to add to teaching STEM.

#### Resources:

Art. (2019). In *OxfordDictionaries.com*. Oxford University Press. Retrieved from <http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/english/art>