

Daniel Fitzsimmons
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Arts in STEM

Art Integration

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The Arts in STEM: Advancing Meaningful Integration

Adams State University

Art Form

After examining the attached lesson, I find that I am drawn to many different kinds of art that could enhance it and provide students new ways to express their learning. Choosing one was a challenge, but I have decided to focus on script writing with the thought that, when used in the classroom, it will lead to students using other art forms. I've chosen script writing because I think it brings in a lot of skills that students can use (including many art forms), not just writing. Students need to be creative to develop all aspects of the script, while also needing to know their content being presented and applying it into new, real-world situations.

Writing scripts in the classroom will entail many elements and I would partner with the art teacher and English-language arts teacher to give students a full experience. Students will need to develop dialogue for their characters, needing strong writing skills that will be taught by the ELA teacher. Visual elements, such as scenery, visual cues, expression, and movements will develop from lessons worked on in art class. Groups of students will work on putting all of these elements together in the science classroom to present a science topic to another group of students.

Lesson Enhancement

How does script writing enhance a lesson about the moon? For me, there are many ways that script writing can be helpful for students in this lesson. First, I feel that students need to have a strong understanding of the lunar phases to be able to describe how and why they occur. Their scripts will be preparation for them presenting information about the moon to younger

students in the school. So, to get their point across and to have good solid facts to present and include in the writing of the script then they must have a good, working knowledge of the lunar phases. They are not going to be able to write an effective script if they don't understand the content that needs to be present.

Second, script writing will bring out creativity in students in a topic that is not really all that creative. Lunar phases are a very straight forward topic and this gives students an opportunity to be creative in their approach to showing me what they have learned and then teaching others what they have learned, as well. Usually, lunar phases are presented with pictures, but students will be able to present this information in innovative ways in their productions, by using other art forms within their scripts such as dance, visual arts, or music. Students will have very few constraints on their script writing, so that they can adapt their script to their wants, needs, and interests. With this, I feel that students will be very interested in writing a script that they feel will get their point across and effectively teach the other students.

Finally, in writing their scripts, students will have the opportunity to collaborate and work cooperatively with other students. This is always a key goal in my science classroom, and should be in any science classroom. They will need to meld ideas from each member of their group into one script and rely on the expertise of each person in the group to make it come together. This teamwork will be essential in writing a great script that captures the

attention of their audience and shows that they have learned about the moon in depth.

Integrating Art

Integrating art is very important in the classroom. I am always trying to find ways to bring in different kinds of art into many of the topics that we work on in class. I've talked about on the discussion board about how I have a resident artist working in my classroom with students making recycled instruments. Students have been learning about recycling and other environmental issues over the last few weeks and he is showing them a practical way to use things that people throw away, another form of recycling. They've become so much more interested in recycling because of his lessons with them.

Art in the classroom gives students new ways to express their learning that may interest them more than more traditional methods. When students can show their learning through art and with art then they take more of an interest in it, because art is usually more enjoyable for them. Students like to dance, sing, draw, or build, and can come up with very creative ways to present their learning when given a chance.

Interdisciplinary STEM

The use of script writing in the science classroom involves multiple disciplines and can be a big help in integrating different subjects into the STEM classroom. The two biggest ideas here are science and writing. Students need to know the science they are working on (which can involve

science, technology, engineering, and/or math) to write a script that shows their learning and they need to have good writing skills to write effectively. Communication with classmates is an essential skill that reaches into all disciplines. The art of script writing, along with creating stage instructions (knowing what people will do on stage), describing feelings, stage placement, and scenery are all important elements of the performing arts.

Script writing can be a fun art form for students to use in the science classroom to show their learning of new science topics. As students learn they can develop scripts that use that new learning, that can then be used for many different purposes. The idea presented here is to write a script to use to present their learning to other students, but it can be used to practice new ideas, to put a creative spin on new topics, or to break ideas down into more kid-friendly language and interests. Script writing can bring multiple disciplines into the science classroom, including writing, performing arts, and reading. The skills students learn through the script writing process can enhance their learning in all subjects, including science. Writing scripts in the classroom can be a valuable tool for teaching and evaluating new science topics.