

Art Integration Assignment:

The art form I plan to use is *drawing*. Drawing in its most basic description is the practice of using a tool to make a mark on a surface. I chose drawing because in the classroom, I consider drawing to be a cognitive tool that students can use to process learned information, and even expand on what they have learned.

Drawing can be a valuable art form to enhance an elementary students' learning in the physical science topic of light waves and how we see objects. Drawing is an integral part of documenting science explorations and discoveries in general, and this topic is taught with many demonstrations in the classroom, so I am hoping that adding the art form of drawing to this lesson will enable students to show their understanding of how light travels, and how we see light around us. Drawing also enhances observational skills, a useful tool in any subject. Drawing is not only important for students' learning, but drawing can be a valuable assessment tool for the teacher. A drawing can reveal a misconception or an understanding in a different way than the written word can.

My opinion about integrating the arts in the classroom is based on my belief that everything in life is connected. The arts are a connector. The arts help us interpret the world and the information around us in a visual or kinetic way, by using all our senses. Sometimes I feel like class curriculums are too separated. Each class isolates itself from the others, while they are all related and should be taught that way. There should be an integration of knowledge from all classes into each and every one. Arts are one way to bridge this gap between subjects by helping to integrate the common denominators between them.

Drawing is a skill that can play a role in academic subject areas as much as in the art room. It allows students to visually represent their ideas on a recently learned topic. This application of the knowledge they heard in a discussion, or saw in a demonstration, helps them solidify what they recently learned. It is cognitive. A student can see a demonstration with her eyes, draw what she has seen, and then explain her drawing to interpret meaning and understanding.

Drawing is used in all areas of STEM education. Technical drawings that convey information about an object, or visually communicate how something is constructed, are necessary components in the fields of science, technology, and engineering. Drawings in mathematics can highlight students' spatial reasoning and mathematical thinking. Students can benefit from seeing the teacher practice drawing and sketching techniques, so

students have an expectation of what they drawing means in a subject other than art. In other words, it is not the artistry that is relevant in a STEM subject drawing, but rather the content. The use of labels with their drawings, for example. Teachers can model sketching and drawing as they teach. Art and drawing-based pedagogy in the STEM classes can enhance a teacher's ability to reach students in a creative and visual way.