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The Arts in STEM

Art Integration Paper

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## **Art Integration within a Kindergarten**

### **Classroom**

#### **Art Form:**

When looking at the different forms of Art, there were ways in which I could implement or include the majority of them in my classroom. However, one of the ways was something I've never tried before and felt it was something my students would greatly benefit from utilizing and learning. I chose to dig deep into the art of Sketchnoting. Sketchnoting is defined by Dr. J. Cox as, "rich visual notes, combining a mix of handwriting, drawings, hand-drawn typography, shapes, and visual elements like arrows boxes and lines." (Sketchnoting for Academic Success, Dr. J. Cox, 2013) For years, students have been accused of "doodling" on their papers, and getting in trouble for not taking "proper" notes while teachers were presenting. However, in the recent years, studies have shown that Sketchnoting can provide huge educational value in the way that students and adults can learn and process new information. This is a tool that allows students an additional route to

process information and represent their thinking. Not all students function the same way, nor do they learn exactly the same. By allowing them to sketchnote you are telling them it's ok to be creative, and to record information in a way that benefits them as an individual. I chose to focus on using this art form in my developing 5E lesson plan, because I believe it shows students it's ok to be creative even when learning facts. Being a Kindergarten teacher, I feel the importance of starting students out with a positive image about school. Sketchnoting is something that shows them it's important to represent your thinking. However, not everybody thinks the same way, and it's ok if your notes look different, as long as it makes sense to you and your brain.

### **Lesson Enhancement:**

When looking at my developing lesson plan, Sketchnoting fits perfectly into the Explain phase. For this phase students will participate in a PowerPoint on 2D shapes, as well as play a game of, "guess that shape." Instead of having students just verbalize the shape names to myself and others, they can start to create a draft glossary book using Sketchnoting. While going through the slides, students can draw the shapes, write down their names, use arrows to indicate how many sides or vertices. They also can include pictures of objects in our world that are composed of those 2D shapes to help create a reference. Which in return helps to hit an additional object, "students will be able to identify and name shapes in our world." This

draft glossary can later be used to help the students create their final glossary during the Elaborate phase at the end of the lesson.

By integrating Sketchnoting into the lesson, I not only anticipate a greater understanding of 2D shapes for my students but also a much higher level of engagement. Art is something that allows students to be themselves, get creative, and access their critical thinking. Any time I am able to integrate it within a lesson, my students always seem to engage themselves more than if it were a simple basic non art task. While my lesson already contained a couple art standards, by having students construct shapes using popsicle sticks, toothpicks, and marshmallows. As well as having students partner up to reenact the story the “Greedy Triangle.” There’s always room for more....in my opinion. Sketchnoting is a new, easy to use tool, and takes what couldn’t been a more routine whole group lesson, into an engaging individualized lesson.

### **Interdisciplinary Context:**

Sketchnoting is a great resource for helping to create cross curricular lessons. It incorporates written, drawn, shapes, and visual elements all in one format. It provides the ability for students to incorporate art within math, reading, vocabulary, social studies, and science lessons. As I stated above, in my current developing lesson it opened an opportunity for me to include an additional math objective and meet a standard that wasn’t already incorporated in the initial outline. It also provides the individual creative

outlet for students while performing the traditional task of note taking. Sketchnoting is also a great way for you to bring in additional writing standards to any subject matter. Note taking or representing their own thinking is a standard that always presents a challenge to me with my Kindergarteners, especially at the beginning of the year. By using sketchnotes, I am able to get a written format of what my students are thinking, however it can be done in a way in which is comfortable to them. It's a great tool for differentiating a lesson so that all students are successful no matter what content area you're working in.

On the discussion side of things, it also opens the door for verbal discussions on comparing and contrasting. You can compare how some students sketchnotes are similar to one another, and how some are very different. Students can learn from their peers' notes, ideas and connections that they might have not been able to come to on their own. Thus bringing in listening and communication standards.

Sketchnotes are something that seem so simple, yet they provide a multitude of opportunities for students to make cross curricular connections. It's such a great tool to allow students to learn using what works best for them, and express their own creativity within their thinking. You can use sketchnotes to bring in additional art, writing, communication, and visual concepts to any lesson. It also provides students with a tool that they can carry with them throughout their educational career.

Works Cited:

Sketchnoting for Academic Success, Dr. J. Ricky Cox, Murry State, 2013

<http://campus.murraystate.edu/faculty/jcox/sketch.html>