

Lesson Summary: Students will learn to see and comprehend what makes a good composition and why.

State Standards:

2PE: Identify and describe the sources artists use for visual reference and to generate ideas for artwork.

1PR: Demonstrate basic technical skill and craftsmanship with various art media when creating images from observation, memory and imagination.

2PR: Apply the Elements and Principles of art and design using a variety of media to solve specific visual art problems.

3PR: Explore multiple solutions to visual art problems through preparatory work.

4PR: Establish the appropriate levels of craftsmanship when completing artworks.

3RE: Use appropriate vocabulary to define and describe techniques and materials used to create works of art.

Objectives:

- Students will learn how to create successful compositions by manipulating the Elements of Art and Principles of Design.
- Students will learn to use creative and critical thinking skills such as flexibility, skepticism, opposites, similarities, and fluency by studying various examples and reproductions and adapting what they have learned towards their own compositions.

Concepts: line, shape, form, value, space (negative and positive), rhythm, variety, size variations, continuation, closure, balance, isolation, color, detail, directional devices, accents, rule of thirds, cropping.

Step Two: Studio

1. Building awareness – Take about five to ten minutes to walk around their room and by looking through a viewfinder, identify and draw out four quick compositions in 6" x 6" squares that you feel emulate the words that you came up with to describe a good composition. Fill the entire space of the square.
2. Assessing Choices – Choose the best two of the four compositions. Using a pencil, create a value study of each of the two compositions by adding dark areas, and (if needed) erasing white areas until the drawing has a complete tonal range of 10 values from dark to light.

