

Arts Integration: Understanding Why and How

Arts Integration Sample Definition – Vermont Arts Council

Integrated arts education is a pedagogy in which the arts are deeply embedded within the core of interdisciplinary learning and affirms the indispensability of arts as a core curriculum subject and concurrently a catalyst to learn other subjects. With integrated arts education arts play a major role in helping students address broad curriculum themes and achieve robust habits of mind including such characteristics as imagination, discipline, collaboration, inquiry, divergent problem solving, empathy, and making connections. The focus is on enriching students' abilities to attain, analyze, discern, and invent knowledge. Integrated arts education acknowledges and fosters Multiple Intelligences. An Integrated arts education ranges from a single lesson to an entire curricula framework.

The emphasis is on both content and learning skills. Critical to integrated arts education is a commitment to learning objectives in the arts and therefore, the arts are assessed with integrity like other fields of knowledge and vital results. Criteria for assessing the arts should include elements and principles of art media, point of view and intent, aesthetic judgment, and critique and reflection.

Documentation Checklist

Introduction

- ✓ Program goals & objectives
- ✓ Classroom Teacher/Arts Specialists name
- ✓ School name
- ✓ Subject area/Art form
- ✓ Class number/Class description (ESL, G/T, Sp.Ed)
- ✓ List of dates when class took place

Program Overview

- ✓ Summary of program
- ✓ List of standards covered (including arts disciplines and all other subject areas)
- ✓ Specific examples of arts integration
- ✓ Calendar/timeline
- ✓ Sample lesson plans
- ✓ All applicable handouts
- ✓ Examples of student work

Student work

- ✓ Photos of student working
- ✓ Include both process and product
- ✓ Additional photos/video/documentation

Assessment

- ✓ Student Assessment Examples
- ✓ Journal prompts
- ✓ Unanticipated outcomes