

Drawing for Scientific Observation

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Age of students: 7 - 12

Alaska State and Cultural Standards:

- A student should be able to create in the arts.
- A student will refine artistic skills/ develop self-discipline thru practices and revision.
- A student will appropriately use new and traditional tools, techniques and processes.

Lesson Objectives:

Students will develop basic drawing skills by using careful observation and practice with proportion, value and texture.

Students will explore color by experimenting with colored pencils, pastels and watercolors.

Materials for Lessons:

- Large drawing paper
- Pencils and erasers
- Colored pencils
- Chalk pastels
- Spray fixative
- Watercolor paints, palettes and brushes
- tubs for water
- Watercolor paper
- Collections of drawing subjects: shells, bones, plants...

Note: Any subjects can be used for drawing; however, drawing from actual three dimensional subjects are preferable to photographs when possible.

Procedures:

Monday:

Introductions

Explanation and demonstration of blind contour drawing; emphasis is on looking carefully, connecting eye to hand, drawing slowly without looking at paper.

Students practice blind contour drawing / discuss results.

Move on to modified blind contour drawing / practice / discuss results.

Tuesday:

Review previous drawing lessons.

Demonstrate blocking in and measuring as a technique for achieving proportion.

Students practice blocking in (starting lightly with large shapes, measuring, adding details last).

Value (lights and darks) and texture are added finally as more realism is desired.

Discussions, self evaluations ongoing with individual students as needed, with focus on accurate drawing skills.

Wednesday:

Brief review of blocking in, using blind contours as warm ups.

Demonstrate basic colored pencil and chalk pastel techniques, including using the two together.

Using a previous drawing of choice, students develop color using colored pencil and / or pastels.

Students may work into previous drawing or start a new one.

Spray fixative is used for final step to avoid smearing.

As a group, students observe how the use of color changed their work.

Thursday:

Demonstration of basic watercolor techniques, using light pencil drawing as a beginning.

Techniques include wet in wet, dry brush, spattering, salt and transparent layering.

Students experiment on scrap paper before beginning on heavy watercolor paper.

First watercolor painting is created over a light pencil drawing that incorporates drawing skills from the week.

Individual critiques with focus on each student's needs and direction.

Friday:

Overview of the week.

Students continue work with watercolor and drawing, with blending of pastel if desired and colored pencil added for final details, if desired.

If appropriate, a whole class critique of all work spread out, with focus on skills learned and experiments explored. Some students are more private about their artwork and may wish to have individual critiques.

Vocabulary:

Blind contour drawing

Blocking in

Proportion

Value

Primary colors / secondary colors

Analogous colors / complimentary colors