

Arts Assessment For Learning

VISUAL ARTS — 7TH GRADE

REFLECTION: COLLAGE - SELF-PORTRAIT

Without judgement, describe what you did. Just the facts:

- Lesson/Class discussion focused on the work of Romare Bearden.
- Base drawing using mirrors.
- Peer assessment and discussion.
- Painting of sheets of paper mixing skin, hair, eye color, etc.
- Cutting of the sheets into small pieces of paper (“tesserae”).
- Arranging “tesserae.”
- Written peer assessment
- Re-working “tesserae.”
- Gluing pieces
- Peer assessment using tracing paper to indicate areas in need of revision.
- Final gluing stage of facial features
- Selection of theme for background.
- Gluing background.
- Written self-assessment

What went well?

By and large the results were positive and the students were pleased and proud of the artwork they produced.

What was so-so?

The timing for the assessments was an issue.

What was the most challenging part of trying this?

The students worked at very different paces. For this reason it was very difficult to have a peer assessment as a whole class. I had to pair different students together and stagger peer assessment.

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How did this strategy influence student learning? (Give specific examples)

Since the students assessed each other's work periodically (drawing, first collage choices, later in the collage process) they were able to establish an on-going relationship that led to trust and positive interactions.

What questions were raised as you implemented the assessment practice?

A question that kept coming up was: how can I arrange peer assessments at regular intervals so that all of the students engage in the process at the same time and achieve maximum results.

What new insights or understandings are forming as a result of this experience?

I learned that collage-making proceeds at radically different rates depending on the student and his/her experience in the medium.

How do the results of your Action Plan inform your inquiry question?

The students benefited from the process, and positive changes were made as a result.

What revisions will you make to the unit going forward?

I believe I will do more pre-assessing familiarity and experience with collage-making, perhaps arranging the groups in terms of confidence level in the medium. In this way groups, can engage in the peer-assessment process as their peers continue to work on the art-making.