

Exploring Self-Identity Through Visual Narratives

Artistic inspiration: Giuseppe Arcimboldo

In this project, students will have the opportunity to express their unique identities and stories through a visual composition. They will create a profile drawing of themselves and populate it with images that represent various aspects of their lives, interests, and experiences. The project will emphasize the principles of good composition, including balance, focal points, and effective use of negative space.

By following these project steps, students will not only create visually appealing compositions but also gain a deeper understanding of their own identities and the art of storytelling through visual elements.

Project Steps:

Step 1: Self-Reflection and Conceptualization

- Have students engage in a self-reflection exercise where they think about their personality, interests, hobbies, values, and experiences.
- Encourage students to jot down keywords, phrases, and ideas that represent different aspects of their identity.
- Help students conceptualize how they want to represent themselves visually and what images would best communicate their narrative.

Step 2: Profile Drawing

- Provide students with guidelines for creating a basic profile outline. They can draw their face in profile view, focusing on the outline of the head, facial features, and shoulders.
- Emphasize the importance of accurate proportions and capturing their unique facial features.

Step 3: Image Selection and Narrative Building

- Instruct students to select images or symbols that represent different facets of their identity and experiences. These could include hobbies, achievements, cultural background, dreams, and more.
- Encourage them to choose images that will help build a coherent narrative within the profile.

Step 4: Placing Images Within the Profile

- Guide students in arranging the selected images within the profile outline.
- Encourage them to consider the composition principles while placing images, ensuring a balanced and visually appealing arrangement.
- Remind students to leave sufficient negative space around and within the profile to enhance the overall composition.

Step 6: Creating a Visual Story

- Visit each table and allow students to have an opportunity to explain the choices they made for each image.
- Discuss how the arrangement of images within the profile contributes to the narrative and representation of their identity.

Step 7: Critique and Feedback

- Organize a critique session where students provide constructive feedback to each other's artworks.
- Encourage students to share their observations about the use of composition principles, the narrative coherence, and the effective use of negative space.

Step 8: Refinement and Finalization

- Based on the feedback received, allow students to make necessary adjustments to their artworks.
- Guide them through the process of finalizing their compositions, ensuring that all elements are well-placed, and the narrative is clear.

Step 9: Presentation and Reflection

- Display student work to showcase their final artworks to a wider audience.
- Encourage students to reflect on the process, discussing what they learned about themselves through the creation of their visual narratives.

Step 10: Documentation and Portfolio Building (Art III & IV)

- Help students photograph their artworks for documentation.
- Assist them in organizing their project documentation and artwork images into a portfolio, showcasing their creative process and final outcomes.