

## “Empowered Self-Portraits”



**Objective:** Create self-portraits with inspirational and empowering sayings.

### Materials

- 12" x18" Drawing Paper
- Colored Pencils

### Motivation

- Discuss and practice portrait skills focusing on proportion, realistic colors, and the eye area.
- Lead students through a discussion about typography and designing lettering.
- Share and discuss inspiring and empowering songs, quotes, and sayings. Have students share their favorite examples as well.

### Step 1: Practice Portraiture

Use face-mapping techniques to create portraits in proportion. Use a mirror to guide this drawing and practice adding realistic color to eyes.

### Step 2: Choose Quotes and Practice Lettering

Show a variety of fonts, typefaces, and ways of displaying and designing words. Encourage students to reflect on advice they've received and write down lyrics and sayings that really speak to them. Sharing these sayings and advice can influence self-expression, individualism, and bullying. Talk about the roles in a bullying situation, and empathize with each of the roles. Discuss solutions for bullying situations.

### Step 3: Draw and Reflect

Students will draw themselves from the bridge of the nose to the top of the head in order to place emphasis on the eyes. This leaves room at the top of the paper for students to design their sayings in quote or thought bubbles.

Throughout the project have students reflect upon their views of bullying and empowerment. Have them create artist statements describing why they chose their quotes. Display these in the hallway to create a sense of an empowered community.

**Tip:** I love to introduce this lesson with [Sara Bareilles' "Brave"](#) and [Katy Perry's "Roar"](#).