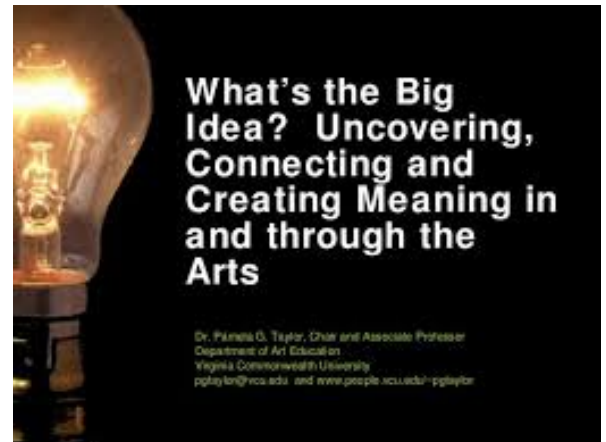


Enduring Idea

A curriculum based on connecting a big picture idea with every student on a personal level.

DESCRIPTION

Enduring Idea curriculum links broad life concepts to art education. The Enduring Idea Curriculum links the important broad concepts from life to an art education curriculum by providing an umbrella idea for multiple units and lesson plans. Examples of Enduring Ideas include identity, survival, power, spirituality, nature, and independence. These broad themes are meant to relate to each student regardless of economic status, race, gender, etc. Enduring Ideas supports a deeper connection between the student's art and their personal growth. Enduring Ideas are not just a generalized life ideas pushed into the curriculum but are added onto the already existing philosophy of discipline-based arts education.



ANALYSIS

The personal connection that Enduring Ideas can create drives a greater importance on art in schools because it shows students how art and other disciplines are interrelated. The key to successful Enduring Ideas is the connection to every student. The curriculum is the most successful if the theme is age appropriate. To create a fruitful connection to the students and create a sense of significant meaning, it must be relevant to the students at their particular stage of development. Although Enduring Ideas must be specific to the age group, it is also critical that the theme is broad enough to work its way down into writing lesson plans and creating specific objective and goals for each student. This ladder from broad to specific will allow the students to grasp a tangible concept. When Enduring Ideas are introduced into art education appropriately it can create a sense of purposefulness and validity in the arts. Having the students create a bond to their artwork will help the students be more engaged in their projects. Using art as a means of self-expression, rather than just art for art sake, allows a student to express themselves creatively without the restrictions of language. Students will be more engaged in the arts because they feel personally connected to their artwork.

REFLECTION

I have had very little experience with Enduring Ideas Curriculum, but I can see that adding a link from art to interesting content is a good way to motivate students to see how things connect in our world. I wrote a lesson plan using an Enduring Idea for 1st and 2nd grade students. I taught that lesson in an afterschool museum art program and the children were extremely engaged and all the projects were personalized. The students

were a mix of races and came from different economic backgrounds, but the lesson had to do with the basic fact that all human beings need food in order to survive and eating food plays a huge role in social development of communities. All the students understood the Enduring Idea and internalized the lesson to individually match with each of their personalities. This experience was not extensive enough to draw a true conclusion from, but the little experience I have with Enduring Ideas was successful.