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Projections/installations/performances from ideas generated from sketchbooks:

1. Have students look through all their work/pages in sketchbooks and keep a tally of what they see: (patterns, colors, themes, media, notes, words, textures.....)
2. Ask them to think about what this list tells them about themselves- ask why do they think they are using that color, pattern, word, theme....ask how it connects to them....how it reflects something that is going on in their lives right now..... For example: does making circle patterns help them feel calm or in control? Why? What is out of control in their lives? What is making them anxious? Try to tether it to them and their life's experiences now.
3. Ask them to identify one overriding theme—control? Over parents? Over homework and life? Body image? Have them write for 5-10 min –free-form thinking/writing– about it. Prompt them to dig down to reveal something about themselves.
4. Discuss either one-on-one or in small groups or class critique how the student can use a projected image either one they have made –or a photo of themselves or some lighting on themselves- including themselves in a set-up or a space- or place- that references the theme they identified....tell them it is experimental- messy- a laboratory for ideas—nothing is for certain or perfect- we expect it to be crazy and fun and insane--- have them work with each other in attempting to create the set up—be hurried and excited- and up and about--- help them with it- lift projector- move sheets- turn lights off- use spotlights- bend things, play! Take photos or have a student take photos of results--- 10-20 images for each student- then ask them to find favorite one and make another work based on what came up from this experiment.....and then have them do a series of works connected to it all.....could be drawings, paintings, videos, etc....
5. Have a blast.