

Creating Memories—How to add original self-portraits

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ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- **How do I integrate self-portraits with the yearbook and my curriculum?**
- **What process do I use to create interesting self-portraits?**
- **What is the value of creating self-portraits for the yearbook year after year?**

Integration:

In our second quarter **portraits** are the portfolio exam for 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students in OKCPS district.

Our district as a whole uses the Core Knowledge curriculum in social studies and science. This curriculum has a visual art section with a set of portraits at each grade level. The SRA art curriculum that we use has large art prints that include portraits at each grade level. These are wonderfully multicultural.

The yearbook committee of the PTA asked for help with adding art to the yearbook, selecting students to work with putting the yearbook together, and eventually in asking for self-portraits made by each student.

Process:

Students become familiar with portraits and self-portraits in their grade level curriculum. Students look at books that show the importance of portraits. Students practice a few guidelines in making self-portraits. Students create the self-portraits and attach to a separately created background. Materials used to create the self-portraits and backgrounds change every year. (Several copies of each year's yearbook will be on display)

Value:

Cleveland has roughly 400 students. Many students who begin in preK or K continue with Cleveland throughout their elementary education. Creating self-portraits along with their photograph creates wonderful memories for students. Students attach value to the creation of portraits.