

Hooking your teenage audience: Hone your own skills

Power of observational drawing

Add a twist to get rid of the boring still lives

Starters: Harry Wong
Apply ideas of structured classroom

Do-Nows That Surprise

We mostly used 4B pencils on simple copy paper that I eventually put into book form with my binding machine. At the end of the year, the students had a book of their work.

Packet has 5 of them, ready to copy. Book of all 100 available

Some are very simple: drawing a water puddle, dried up leaf, dryer lint, your thumb or a melting ice cube. Others need odds and ends that you collect, scavenge or buy cheaply. A few examples are baby shoes, small toys, yarn, pickle slices, carpet swatches, etc. Some are designed to encourage creativity: draw a deep, deep space, make a landscape that look foggy, draw a feeling, etc. Please email me if you are interested in purchasing a book containing all 100 of the Do-Nows plus a brief introduction. (Juliahealy@aol.com)

Be ready

Make what you are doing worth your students' while

Be consistent

Recipe for an elegant problem à la Ken Vieth

- Start with an idea that is stimulating to you and your students
- Have a set of objectives that will allow for multiple outcomes
- Add a technical challenge that requires and builds skills
- Make sure to provide an opportunity for students to reflect on what they have learned through this process

Exquisite Corpse in Oil Pastel to start or other group-forming activity

"Big" Assignments

1. Gradations in pencil
2. Gradations into collages

Observational Work

3. "White Stuff" Still Life in charcoal or conte—I sometimes skip this one, if the class already has done a similar assignment in another class

Gesso Listerine bottles, coke bottles, things students might recognize the shapes of such as old toys, broken electronics, Name-brand sneakers or shoes, etc. Make a still life with a twist.

Importance of Lighting—troll yard sales for desk lamps and extension cords. I color code the lights and cords and make the students responsible for their set-up.

4. Contour plants pencil first

Optional: Adding color and tone, if desired, ink, watercolor, caran d'ache

5. Large Fake Plant Leaves—shading emphasized

6. Hand from plaster model/figure drawing outside of school

7. Fabric Still Life

Teaching creativity—important, yet students need skills, too.

8. Something from an unusual perspective—students are able to personalize the assignment and add a creative piece here.

9. Self-portrait using grid method, pencil lightly first, choice of medium later

Meaningful background added—again, there is a lot of room for creativity here.

10. Reflective Still Life—car parts, mirrors, kitchen pots, teapots, candlestick holders, etc.

11. Free Choice—students are charged with making something amazing. This is often the beginning of their Advanced Placement concentration

Other Ideas for mixing things up:

The Drawing Game

Upside Down Drawings

Art Problems

Pictionary, personalized for your students (Example: Draw your school mascot)

doodlines

Nouns and Adjectives Game

Nasco's Sketchables Contest

Taxidermy

True Mirror

Junk of any kind—old tools, broken appliances, junk drawer items

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