

Why Teach Art?

Can you imagine a life without art? There would be hardly any creativity. Life would be plain and boring. Schools today are beginning to cut back on art education, because states are forcing budget cuts. Art is one of the first things schools get rid of, probably because they do not understand the importance of art. Art can do many things for students. It opens their creativity/imagination and internal development, makes students smarter, helps kids stay motivated to stay in school, opens up more career options especially with today's technology advancements, and is in its self a universal language.

Art has been a constant throughout history, it has been around longer than science, math, and writing. When we look at cultures of yesterday and cultures of today, they are looked at based on their art (Domont). This is why it's very important to teach and have young children begin actively participating in art. Societies have included art in children's lives because, "the arts are a fundamental, important part of culture, and an education without them is an impoverished education leading to an impoverished society" (Domont).

Art also helps develop your internal world. To become developed with your internal world Dr. Alder Ashen says we need to learn and master skills by using both hemispheres (Domont). The left hemisphere is mathematical and logical thinking and the right side is speech and creativity. The left-brain is basically like a storage box for knowledge. Art brings those storage boxes out by being creative which is where it uses the right side of the brain. So basically the arts are expressing your living body, which will help you become internally healthy and developed (domont).

Surprisingly the most significant thing that art does for students is makes them smarter not only in the arts but makes them more intelligent in all aspects of life. The 1997 National Assessment of Education Progress studied 8th graders in art education. They found out that students that have incorporated art in there curriculum did better than those students that did not have art. On top of this it increased their art ability and their ability to express well communicated complex ideas and feelings (Bartel).

Another survey explains that test scores are better if there is Art Education. The Texas Assessment of Academic Skills has shown that scores have gone up by 12.3 percent in the last five years. Writing scores have gone up 14 percent and math scores have went up 61 percent for art students. Principal Russ Chapman said, "It never entered my mind that arts education could become a powerful force in boosting academic performance ... Evidence shows how comprehensive arts education is enhancing our students' ability to understand concepts and to express themselves articulately"(Bartel).

If you still don't believe that art makes a person more intelligent then here are a couple more examples. Brain research has shown if young children are exposed to art at a young age, then they will have a better chance of reaching maximum potential in reading and writing. Also, Dr. James Catterall of UCLA has analyzed records of kids from 8th to 10th grade and has discovered that children who are participating in the arts are scoring better on standardized test. Last of all, the College Board has stated that students that have had art education as a whole do much better on the SAT's than students who have not (Bartel).

Motivation is also another great reason to have art in school. From my experience of going to school, I can firmly tell you that art class was a major motivation

tool and gave me excitement about waking up every morning to go to school. All people are different when it comes to learning and art is a subject that keeps some kids interested and even might keep a person from dropping out (Powell). Dr. James Catteral of UCLA has studied students that had art and he found out that attendance records went up (Bartel).

With the invention of the computer and the Internet, career options have really opened up for the art major. Art has a major effect in the computer world dealing with things like power point, web design, magazines and other sorts of things. You need an art major to get a job being a graphic artist or a web animator. Just think how boring the Internet or power point would be if there were no artistic developments behind it. It would only consist of a bunch of words. With art in these things, they become more attractive to readers and get the message across (Walbet). This is another great reason to have art classes in school so it gives children another thought about career options.

The last reason that I feel that art is a necessity for school is that it is a universal language. You do not have to look at art and have to understand some foreign language to get the meaning of the object. Art gives the individual a chance to express their opinions beliefs and many other things in both verbal and nonverbal symbols. All nations can understand a piece of art even if the artist and the person do not speak the same native tongue (Walbert).

There are many more reasons why art should be taught in schools and these things that are listed above are just a few. Remember that if art were not around then this world would be a boring place to live because the creativity and imagination would not be expressed as much. Art affects everybody and should be taught in schools everywhere. The great American philosopher, John Dewey said, "Art is a quality

discernible in everyday experience (Wood).

