

Art Masterpiece Checklist

Preparing for an Art Masterpiece presentation:

- ✓ Spend at least 20-30 minutes in front of your piece observing the artwork.
- ✓ Establish a theme and goal for your presentation.
- ✓ Gain basic knowledge by briefly researching the artwork and artist.
- ✓ Formulate 3-4 theme-based questions that follow your line of inquiry.

Leading an Art Masterpiece presentation:

- ✓ Have fun and smile ... enthusiasm is contagious!
- ✓ Be encouraging/complimentary ... all answers are welcome.
- ✓ Spend a significant amount of time at the beginning using open-ended questions to elicit observations. Use questions that do not demand a particular answer and be ready to respond positively to a wide range of responses. (You may want to encourage students to begin by silently observing the piece for a minute or more.)
- ✓ Follow up with 3-4 theme-based questions that will allow the students to interpret what they see. Be sure responses are reinforced with evidence from the artwork.
- ✓ Validate and expand upon answers.
- ✓ Weave in basic elements of art as well as 1-3 age appropriate art terms.
- ✓ Integrate factual information about the work when relevant and appropriate. (Know the subject well enough to answer questions, but feel comfortable saying, "I don't know".)

You may also want to do the following:

- ✓ Begin your presentation with an attention getting device (verbal or visual).
- ✓ Call upon students' prior knowledge and experiences and ask them to make connections between their answers and the artwork.
- ✓ Inquire about students' feelings/opinions regarding the artwork.
- ✓ Bring in materials that will help students "feel" or perceive as well as see the art (e.g., pottery shard, bronze object, fabric samples, color wheel, music, other art/artist examples, etc.).
- ✓ Design activities and questions for a variety of learning styles. Activities can include writing, drawing, performance, group/class observation exercises, etc. Questions can incorporate other sensory modes, such as, "If you could step into this painting, what are some sounds you might hear?"